Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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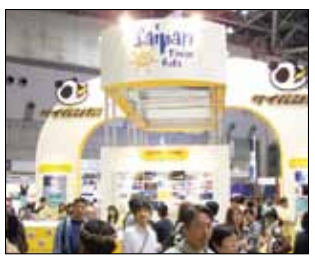
POLL RESULTS

In the budget tussle between the House and the Senate, which number of work-hour cuts do you support?

8	95
16	72
No cuts	46
More cuts	31
None	26

Sunday, October 03, 2010

INSIDE



Japan Campaign

Marianas Visitors Authority reached out to over 110,000 travel trade representatives, media representatives, and potential visitors recently at JATA World Trade Fair 2010.

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Pro Birth Control

Government prosecutors on Friday charged a popular Manila artist and tour guide with offending Roman Catholics after he disrupted Mass at the capital's main cathedral to protest the clergy's opposition to contraception.

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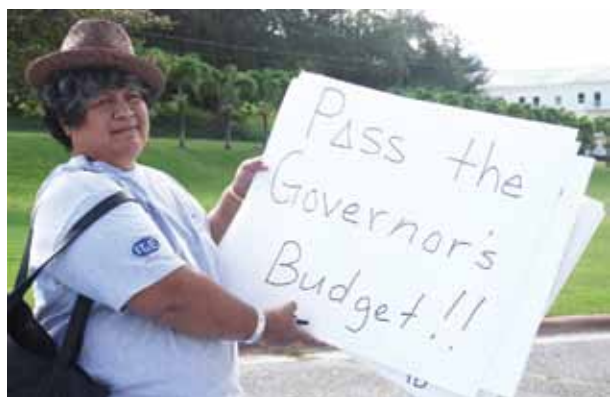
Fitial signs 3 Senate bills into law, including Cancer Registry. PAGE 3
Medicare lifts Hemodialysis Center's jeopardy status. PAGE 6

AS CNMI GOV'T SHUTDOWN CONTINUES

Broken compromise, blackmail allegations surface

» House yet to hold session to act on new Senate-amended budget bill



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Rita Castro, a government employee, holds a placard she personally made to show to the members of the Legislature on Capital Hill on Saturday afternoon.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A broken compromise, allegations of blackmail related to a defeated casino bill, disagreements on work hour cuts, and political differences delayed once again the passage of a budget bill as of Sunday night, prolonging the CNMI government's partial shutdown that began on Oct. 1.

This means over 1,400 government employees considered non-essential will still not be able to report to work today, or until a budget is passed.

The House passed on Saturday night a new budget bill that still contains a 16-hour work cut and 13 unpaid holidays but with a sharp cut in the House and Senate leadership account.

Rep. Ray Basa's (Cov-Saipan) House Bill 17-121, House Substitute 1, House Draft 1 passed the House on a 12-8 vote.

About an hour later, the Senate passed a substitute bill that still has an eight-hour cut and 10

See BROKEN on Page 4

Fitial amends executive order to add Fund on 'essential service' list

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial amended on Saturday his executive order to include the NMI Retirement Fund on the list of essential services that are exempt from the government shutdown that began on Oct. 1.

"This amendment is necessary and takes effect immediately to ensure that the Retirement Fund continues to furnish services, including, but not limited to, pension payments, manual benefit checks, automatic benefits payments, pension checks, Government Health and Life Insurance Plan coverage, and other essential services to its members during this crisis," Fitial said in Executive Order 2010-12.

NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees chair Sixto Igisomar earlier said the shutdown of the Fund is expected to delay the issuance of pension payments and other benefits to thousands of retirees.

The original executive order declares a state of emergency in the CNMI due to the lack of a balanced budget in effect on Oct. 1, the start of Fiscal Year 2011.

The 17th Legislature has yet to pass a budget as of yesterday.

Fitial's amended executive order exempts from the shutdown at least 11 personnel from six NMI Retirement Fund units.

These include a member services manager and two benefits technician in the Member Services; an accountant supervisor and account in the Accounting Department; a benefits analyst and benefits technician in the General Administrative Services; a technical financial analyst in the Investment Division; a systems administrator in the Information Technology; and administrator and legal counsel in the Management Unit.

Fitial's original list of essential services includes those directly involved

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- All NMC personnel now exempted from shutdown **Page 3**
- Federally funded HPO programs affected by gov't shutdown **Page 5**
- Two offices at Judiciary closed **Page 5**

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), left, gestures while Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), left, looks on during discussion on Basa's latest budget bill on Saturday night. The House passed the bill with a 16-hour work cut per pay period and 13 unpaid holidays, but the Senate passed a substitute bill with an eight-hour work cut and 10 unpaid holidays.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said on Saturday night that he will not seek re-election in 2012.

Tenorio made the statement during discussion on the latest Fiscal Year 2011 budget bill—House Bill 17-121—that the House and Senate have yet to agree on to avoid prolonging the partial government shutdown that began on Oct. 1.

"I'm not running for reelection in 2012," Tenorio said, drawing a lone, short-lived applause from the people in the House gallery on Saturday night on Capital Hill.

The speaker said he will do the best he can during his term.

Tenorio served as CNMI governor from 1994 to 1998. He ran for governor

See FROILAN on Page 4

Local

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Jorgensen asks federal court to intervene into Fund's shutdown

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Attorney Bruce L. Jorgensen filed last Friday in federal court an emergency motion to prevent Governor Benigno R. Fitial, the CNMI government, and the NMI Retirement Fund from shutting down Fund operations and services.

Jorgensen filed the motion on behalf of his clients—two unnamed retired CNMI government employees—who sued Fitial and the Fund over alleged non-payment of their retirement benefits.

Jorgensen asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to provide plaintiffs and all Fund retirees and beneficiaries uninterrupted and unrestrained Fund services with fully staffed facility during normal working hours.

The lawyer requested the court to restrain Fitial, the government and the Fund from diminishing the financial value, and or coverage benefits/scope of any Fund-related benefits to which plaintiffs and other retirees and beneficiaries were entitled as of Sept. 29, 2010.

He also moved the court to allow the withdrawal of the two unnamed persons as plaintiffs in the case and substitute former representative Christina E. Sablan, David L. Price, and Carmela Sablan as new plaintiffs.

The shutdown of the Fund is expected to delay the issuance of pension payments and other benefits to thousands of retirees.

The Fund is among the agencies not considered essential by Fitial in his directive to shut down the government after the House of Representatives failed to pass a budget on time.

Jorgensen said nearly 16 months ago, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo issued a judgment against the CNMI, and in favor of the Fund in the amount of $231 million.

"Not one cent of this $231 million judgment has, to date, been paid—rather, at the behest of Fitial, the Fund board/administration officials and their counsel, paid at Fund expense, have ostensibly engaged in year-long 'negotiations' pursuant to which zero has been collected on this judgment," he said.

Jorgensen said by memorandum issued yesterday, Thursday, Fund officials notified plaintiffs and others of the intent by Fund to acquiesce to a Fitial/CNMI orchestrated "shutdown" of the Fund and Fund operations.

Unlike the CNMI, he said, the Fund does not rely upon CNMI annual appropriations or budgeting for Fund operations.

He said the Fund is authorized to tap into its own investments ($300 million) to meet its obligations which obviously includes operational expenses.

"Absent this court's immediate intervention with imposition of equitable relief, the harm and peril to which plaintiffs and others have been and remain detrimentally subjected, shall escalate exponentially and irreparably," the lawyer said.

Jorgensen said his clients perceive the CNMI's situation as a "contrived crisis" designed, in part, to sway public opinion as to a CNMI ballot initiative in the forthcoming Nov. 2 election.

He said in the election, Fitial will seek a bailout for the administration's $231 million debt to the Fund, "financed by the present day CNMI working general public who of late have been victimized through unconscionable "crisis" antics.

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Fitial signs 3 Senate bills into law, including Cancer Registry

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed into law three Senate bills on Thursday, the deadline for passing a balanced budget to avert a partial government shutdown.

The laws signed were introduced by Saipan, Tinian, and Rota senators.

Some lawmakers said the timing of the signing of these measures into law is suspect, adding that it may have been a ploy for the senators to agree to the House's version of the budget bill that includes a 16-hour cut and 13 unpaid holidays. The Senate stands firm on an eight-hour cut with 10 unpaid holidays.

Fitial

Among those signed into law is Sen. Ralph Torres's (R-Saipan) bill to establish a population-based cancer registry in the CNMI.

Torres's Senate Bill 17-10, Senate Substitute 1, is now Public Law 17-19.

A cancer registry is a special database that contains information about cancer patients in a particular population or in a particular hospital. The measure is supported by government and private entities in the CNMI, where cancer is the second leading cause of deaths based on a 2004 study that the National Cancer Institute funded.

Fitial also signed into law Sen. Juan Ayuyu's (Ind-Rota) S.B. 17-25, establishing the Tatachog Beach Park pavilion on Rota as a cultural and arts center under the management of the Rota Mayor's Office.

"The development of a cultural/arts center that provides our island visitors the opportunity to view and experience the creation of art, as well as purchase art products is one way of attracting additional interests," Ayuyu said in his bill.

Ayuyu's bill is now P.L. 17-17.

The governor also signed into law Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Sen. Henry San Nicolas's (Cov-Tinian) S.B. 17-28.

The bill, which designates the House of Taga Park on Tinian as a Commonwealth historical site, is now P.L. 17-18.

The site now falls under the supervision and management of the Historic Preservation Office.

Hofschneider and San Nicolas's bill also renames the Tinian Health Center the Lucia Villagomez "Chiang" Arizapa Health Center.

All NMC personnel now exempted from shutdown

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has granted the appeal of Northern Marianas College interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera to include all the institution's personnel on the list of exempted employees from the government shutdown, which took effect Friday.

Although the governor classified the college as among the essential services, only instructional and support staffers were originally exempted from the shutdown directive, which was a result of the Legislature's failure to pass a balance budget.

On Thursday evening, the governor released an updated list of exempted departments and employees which included all NMC personnel.

For this semester, NMC employs 86 instructors, including those serving as part-time educators. The college also has 44 non-instructional faculty which include department chairpersons, scientists, counselors, and extension aids. Staff and administrators—or those classified as non-faculty employees—total 109.

Cabrera

Press secretary Angel Demapan said Friday that the governor's decision was based his consideration of the current status of the college.

"Upon further review of essential services prior to the issuance of the executive order, the administration decided to exempt NMC in its entirety to allow for the institution to adequately address all pending matters pertaining to the current 'show-cause' status of the Commonwealth's lone community college," Demapan said.

NMC is currently addressing concerns of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges which warned the college that failure to comply would result to termination of its accreditation.

NMC has until Oct. 15 to submit its show cause report that will justify why its accreditation should not be revoked.

The college was first placed in show cause status in 2008. It successfully reaffirmed its accreditation in June 2009.

Last June 30, 2010 the commission placed the NMC in show-cause status anew due to its non-compliance with the eligibility requirements.

WASC noted 10 new recommendations that need to be resolved by the college. The decision will be known in its January assembly.

The college interim president wrote Fitial Tuesday asking all NMC personnel to be classified as essential and thus be exempted from the shutdown directive to prevent the termination of all of the college's federally funded programs.

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BROKEN

From Page 1

unpaid holidays.

HB 17-121, HS1, HD1, Senate Substitute 1 passed the Senate on a 9-0 vote.

This brought the Legislature almost back to where it started on the $132 million spending measure.

House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), as of last night, has yet to call for a session to act on the Senate-amended budget bill.

Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) said senators have been on standby since Saturday night and up to Sunday to see if the House will hold a session to act on the budget bill, but to no avail.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) said Tenorio's leadership could have called for a session for Saturday night, Sunday or even today, to act on the latest budget bill given the importance of passing a budget.

"We can hold a session on short notice because it will be to address an emergency matter. This House leadership has no sense of urgency, knowing that over 1,400 will still not be able to work today and still not calling for a session to pass a budget. This is reckless and unacceptable," Benavente told *Saipan Tribune*.

This is the first time in CNMI history that the government has partially shut down for a lack of a timely passed budget, to comply with a constitutional amendment last year.

Benavente introduced the legislative initiative that disallows continuing resolution and calls for a timely passage of a budget every year. The penalties for not passing a budget include no salaries for lawmakers and partial shutdown of the government.

'Broken compromise'

As early as Friday afternoon, members of the House leadership reached a compromise with the Senate to agree to an eight-hour work cut per pay period to break the impasse that has delayed the passage of a $132 million spending package for Fiscal Year 2011, lawmakers said.

Around 2pm on Saturday, the Fitial administration called members of the House leadership purportedly to discuss the so-called gentleman's agreement.

The House originally set the Saturday session for 2pm, but moved it to 4pm because of the meeting with the administration. But the session didn't start until 5:45pm.

"We were under the impression that the House will finally pass a budget in line with an agreement with the Senate, but the 2pm meeting with the administration changed everything. There's no agreement anymore. The governor rejected the agreement between the House and Senate leaderships," one of the lawmakers privy to the agreement said.

Another lawmaker said "every time the administration sticks its fingers to the House, the initial agreements change. The House cannot think for itself."

Lawmakers said every single day that a budget is not passed means another day of joblessness for over 1,400 employees and lack of many public services except for those that are considered essential.

The Fitial administration reiterated its call for the Legislature to pass a balanced budget and "set aside political agendas" so that the government shutdown may be lifted and thousands of workers can return to work.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday it's very unfortunate that a shutdown remains in effect at this time.

He said the administration's message to lawmakers has been consistent: A balanced budget must be passed.

"A compromise must result in a budget bill that meets the constitutional mandate of being balanced. At this juncture, any attempt to settle on an eight-hour cut without necessary expenditure adjustments and/or identification of additional revenue sources will produce an unbalanced budget. Thus, transmitting an unbalanced budget to the Office of the Governor will result in the bill being vetoed," Demapan said.

Blackmail allegation

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) said every time the House leadership discusses the budget bill, it brings up the issue of Tenorio's defeated casino bill.

Tenorio and Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) have been saying calling on the Senate to reconsider its action on the speaker's casino bill.

But senators said the casino bill is a dead issue, and that Saipan voters had already twice rejected the operation of casinos on Saipan.

Reyes said for a lack of a better word, the Senate feels that the House leadership is blackmailing the Senate to reconsider the speaker's casino bill so that the House majority would agree on the Senate's proposed eight-hour work cuts per pay period.

"We feel it's not really about the work hour cuts and unpaid holidays but the passage of the casino bill. There's reluctance on the part of the House leadership to move an inch on the work hour cuts. You can only conclude that it's because of the Senate's rejection of the casino bill," Reyes said.

The Senate and even the House recognized that even if the casino bill is passed and the voters approved it, it would take two years or more to realize any economic benefit from it.

Leadership account, work cuts

In a stinging rebuke to Tenorio, the House minority bloc and other members succeeded in drastically reducing to $50,000 the majority's proposal to increase the House leadership account to $400,000, which is the maximum allowed by the Constitution.

The current leadership account is only $76,000 for both the House and Senate.

Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero's (R-Saipan) floor amendment to cut the House and Senate leadership account to $50,000 drew applause from the crowd in the House gallery on Saturday night.

Before offering his floor amendment to cut the leadership account, Deleon Guerrero said there has been a "disturbing pattern of conduct" by the House leadership to end debate on important issues related to the budget bill deliberation.

He then asked his colleagues to reserve the motion to end debate until there's enough deliberation on key issues.

Benavente, before the voting on Deleon Guerrero's amendment, reiterated that it is unacceptable to raise the leadership account from the current $76,000 to $400,000 when many government employees could be subjected to up to 26-percent salary cut if and when the House leadership's proposed 16-hour work cut per pay period and 13 unpaid holidays succeed.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) also offered a floor amendment to cap the work hour cuts to eight hours per pay period and 10 unpaid holidays.

But this was defeated on an 11-9 vote.

Basa, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, said he would be willing to support Dela Cruz's amendment provided he could identify $9 million today to cover or offset the amount needed if work hours are cut by only eight hours plus 10 unpaid holidays.

"Guys, wake up and smell the coffee," he said.

Benavente said the way that the budget bill is written provides enough flexibility for expenditure authorities to help balance the $132 million budget because the measure provides for work hour cuts, termination and hiring restrictions.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) said Basa's bill gives the governor 100 percent reprogramming authority.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), during the session, reiterated that she does not support a 16-hour work cut per pay period.

She talked about the 16-hour work cut's "fatal effect" on lowest paid government employees. She said with the eight-hour work cut, employees "may be able to swim," while a 16-hour cut will drown them.

"As majority of the government employees on Rota earn between $12,000 and $20,000, and with the high costs of goods and products, utilities, and air transportation, these employees will sink. Indirectly, it is telling our government employees to resign or terminate from their jobs and relocate or rely on federal assistance to sustain a living. It is therefore, my position, not to conform to the 16/14," she said later.

When it came to voting on the main motion to pass Basa's HB 17-121, HS1, HD1, 12 members voted yes and eight voted no.

Those who voted "yes" were Basa, Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Frederick Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Rafael Demapan (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), Ogumoro, Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), Tenorio, Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan).

Camacho and Villagomez surprisingly voted in favor of reducing the House and Senate leadership account.

Saturday on Capital Hill

Concerned citizens, government employees and officials went to the Legislature on Saturday afternoon to attend the 2pm House session, which was reset to 4pm.

Some of them carried placards urging the Legislature to pass a budget to discontinue the government shutdown.

One of them was Rita Castro, who has been a government employee since 2006, and who was not able to report to work on Friday because of the partial government shutdown.

"I have four kids and a grandson. We live paycheck to paycheck. This shutdown cannot go on, I cannot afford to have this go on," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

She made placards that all read, "Pass the governor's budget."

Castro was with her sister, Tona Hossain, at the House session.

'Reckless'

Edith Deleon Guerrero, executive director of the Workforce Investment Agency, who was at the Legislature on Saturday, said it's "reckless" and "irresponsible" for the Legislature not to agree on a budget bill months after the governor submitted his budget proposal on April 1.

"They have it since April 1, and that should have given them enough time to argue and deliberate on the budget. There's no reason for them to sit on it for months. When you put people's livelihood at risk, it's not morally right," she said.

Former representative Tina Sablan, during a public comment period at the session, said it is "disrespectful" for the Legislature to allow the Sept. 30 deadline to come and go without passing a budget.

"It's unacceptable. It says so much about the leadership of the CNMI," she said.

Sablan presented two sets of petitions to the House, including one that calls for the Legislature to pass a balanced budget that prioritizes essential services.

Ignacio Cabrera, resident executive director of the Office of Indigenous Affairs, said passing a budget bill with an eight-hour cut as proposed by the Senate will effectively terminate at least 383 employees in the Executive Branch.

During the session, Tenorio allowed Ogumoro to become the acting speaker. Ogumoro took the speaker's seat, and Tenorio sat at Ogumoro's chair.

Shortly after 7:30pm, people in the House gallery proceeded to the Senate chamber where senators were waiting for any House action.

Senate session

Manglona convened the Senate at 7:40pm, and all nine senators were present.

The Senate, however, went into a short recess to wait for the formal transmission of the House-passed budget bill to the Senate.

This came in at 8:25pm. Shortly thereafter, the Senate passed its substitute bill on a 9-0 vote.

HB 17-121, HS1, HD1, SS1 still contains eight-hour work cut, 10 unpaid holidays, $50,000 leadership account for the House and Senate, among other things.

This substitute bill is almost similar to the Senate-amended HB 17-119 on Thursday morning.

Senators said among the results of a 16-hour cut is the lack of an incentive to cut "operational expenses," "no incentive to reduce hiring," "more strain on people's salary and their families," and "no revenue generating bills."

With an eight-hour work cut per pay period, the Senate said the government will pass revenue-generating bills, will restrict new hires and rehires, and will control non-essential spending.

Senators said up to 26-percent wage cut will be mostly devastating to government employees earning $13,000 or less per annum.

FROILAN

From Page 1

twice after his term but did not succeed.

In 2009, he ran for a House seat and won under Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's Covenant Party. He became House speaker of the 17th Legislature which was sworn into office in January this year.

During Saturday night's session, Tenorio said the proposal to reduce the leadership account to $50,000 from the $400,000—the maximum amount allowed by the Constitution—will make it difficult for his leadership to perform its job.

Eleven of 20 House members voted in favor of Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero's (R-Saipan) floor amendment to cut the House and Senate leadership accounts to $50,000 each.

Tenorio said the $50,000 will be divided among eight committees and three House officers.

He said if one divides this number by the 11 committees and officers, it will only give $378 to each of them every month.

Tenorio said the committees need more than this to conduct public hearings not only on Saipan but also on Tinian and Rota.

He also said the minority members receive the same discretionary allowance as those who are members of the majority that have the bulk of the work.

"We can do the work without you," he said, referring to the minority bloc led by House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan).

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), during the session, said the House speaker was right that some committee had to postpone hearings on Rota because of lack of funding but she said she agrees that more funds should be given to the Marianas Visitors Authority especially because Continental Micronesia flights to Rota will end beginning Oct. 5.

But Tenorio said "MVA is not doing its job."

The current leadership account is $76,000.

Rep. Ramon Basa's (Cov-Saipan) HB 17-121 proposes to increase this to $400,000. But Deleon Guerrero's proposal cuts this to $50,000, and the difference between the two figures will be given to MVA's "all others" account.

Deleon Guerrero also said the Legislative Bureau does the bulk of the job, so an additional budget should be given to the bureau instead of giving it to the House leadership.

Basa said the House leadership needs to hire an economist to help develop a plan for growing the CNMI economy, instead of just focusing on cutting expenditures.

"We need an expert," he said during the session.

In a surprise move, Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) and floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) voted in favor of reducing the leadership account to $50,000.

They joined nine others in voting for the drastic cut in leadership account: Benavente, Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Deleon Guerrero, Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), Santos, Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), and Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan).

When this amendment passed, the people in the House gallery applauded.

Concerned citizens and many lawmakers have repeatedly said that it is unacceptable and insensitive for the House leadership to increase its current $76,000 leadership account to $400,000 while insisting on a 16-hour work cut and 13 unpaid holidays for government employees. This would result in a 26-percent pay cut, and would severely impact employees, especially those earning $13,000 or less a year.

FITIAL

From Page 1

in ensuring public safety, public health, welfare and education, as well as federal-funded programs and autonomous government corporations that do not rely on the general fund to continue their operations.

For example, the governor exempts the entire Public School System, Northern Marianas College, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., doctors, nurses, police officers, firefighters, corrections officers, and social workers, among other things.

Federally funded HPO programs affected by gov't shutdown

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The government shutdown which began last Oct. 1 greatly affected all federally funded preservation programs administered by the CNMI Historic Preservation Office.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary Melvin Faisao told *Saipan Tribune* via email that these programs include the National Register program, Section 106 Review, Survey and Inventory, and other education and outreach programs of the HPO.

Although most of the HPO projects come from federal funds, Faisao said even the preservation programs specified under Public Law 3-39 will also be affected.

"A long-term shutdown could result in failure to complete federally and locally mandated duties, missed deadlines for completion of federally funded projects and re-capture of significant portions of our grant funds by the [National Park Service]," he said.

According to Faisao, the Section 106 program reviews all federally funded, permitted or licensed projects that have the potential to cause effects on historic properties.

He said federal laws stipulate that projects cannot receive federal funds until Section 106 review has been done.

"The commencement of projects in the absence of qualified HPO staff to review the projects might be determined to be non-compliance or foreclosure," warned Faisao.

The secretary also said that HPO takes part in the one-start review process for earthmoving projects of the Division of Environmental Quality.

Faisao said DEQ will not issue earthmoving permits without comments from HPO. He said a critical part of the review process is the survey of project areas by HPO staff.

"If HPO is closed, there will be no in-house survey. If the applicant goes directly to an archaeological consultant, there will be no staff archaeologist to review the consultant's report, so comments still cannot go to DEQ and the permit will not be issued," he said.

Two offices at Judiciary closed

At least two offices at the Judiciary were closed starting on Friday when the CNMI government partially shut down following the Legislature's failure to pass a balanced budget.

Saipan Tribune learned that the Recorder's Office and the Hillblom Memorial Law Library were closed.

Secretaries of the judges also did not report to work as they are considered "non-essentials."

Only court marshals and a few court staff were at work.

A court staff, who was busy entertaining customers, said she still report to work because her position is federally funded.

Another court staff, who requested anonymity, said she does not consider herself lucky because she feels the pain of her co-workers who are among those 1,400 employees who have to wait longer to report back to work.

The Judiciary is expected to issue a press statement today, Monday, regarding the services affected by the shutdown.

Last week, the Judiciary announced that its duties and responsibilities to the people "remain ever present regardless of the difficulties and obstacles our government is facing."

At the Department of Public Safety, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles was closed. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Special Pink Drinks at Pinktober Concert

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Hard Rock Café on Saipan will feature special "Pink Drinks" during the 2010 Pinktober concert slated for Oct. 10.

Operations manager Reynaldo Perez told *Saipan Tribune* that the special "Pink Drinks" that will be available during the concert include the Pink Promise, Pink Ribbon, Berry Blush Martini, and Wildberry Smoothie.

"Throughout the past 11 years, Hard Rock's breast cancer awareness campaign has helped to raise millions for breast cancer research," said Perez.

The 2010 Pinktober Concert is part of Hard Rock's month-long Pinktober campaign, an initiative that features live music events and limited-edition products, helps raise awareness about breast cancer and benefit breast cancer research organizations including the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

This year's Pinktober campaign marks the 11th anniversary of Hard Rock International's support of the search for a cure to breast cancer.

The fundraising concert for a cause will feature performances from various local artists such as Jerry Alcantara, Leila Staffler, Pats & Dhen, Lara Ramos, The Sai, MC Riyoko, Black Sands, and Burning Bush.

Tickets to the fundraising concert cost $10 per person. Doors open at 6pm.

During the concert, CCA will do presentations that help promote breast cancer awareness, said Perez.

According to Perez, proceeds from the sale of the special limited-edition Pinktober merchandise such as pins, T-shirts, and key chains will benefit the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

Perez thanked this year's sponsors for their undying support. These are Pepsi, DFS Galleria, IT&E, National Rent a Car, and Konflict Clothing.

The 2010 Pinktober Concert is also part of the celebration of the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Navy to conduct training on Warning Area-517

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct training on Warning Area-517 on Oct. 5-6, from 8am to 5pm.

The public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from these areas during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. ***(USN)***

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Medicare lifts Hemodialysis Center's jeopardy status

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services last Wednesday lifted the jeopardy status it imposed on the Hemodialysis Center after finding the Commonwealth Health Center facility complying with its standards and requirements.

A four-member Medicare team conducted a three-day follow-up inspection last week which focused on seven critical areas.

Public Health acting deputy secretary for hospital administration Esther Muna confirmed that the team conducted the re-survey from Sept. 27 through 29. This was a follow-up inspection from the initial survey it conducted in September last year and in January this year.

Muna said the work was performed in seven areas which include plans of care; assessment; medical director; quality assurance; care at home; governance; and physical environment.

Saipan Tribune learned that these areas were given jeopardy status in September 2009.

"After the completion of the survey, the jeopardy status has been lifted for all areas. Also, out of the areas surveyed, only the care at home, governance, and physical environment areas were in conditional level," disclosed Muna.

She revealed that the opening of the new wing at the dialysis center would resolve the issues addressed on the physical environment.

Muna said a proposal has already been received by the manufacturer to bring the reverse osmosis system to Food and Drug Administration 510 Certification.

"Once the certification is obtained, we will inform Medicare informing them of our readiness. In the meantime, I will continue to work with the entire team to submit the plans of correction for all areas," she said.

Muna applauded both the Hemodialysis Center and Hospital Facility staff for all their hard work to bring both facilities out of jeopardy status. Muna also serves as the chief operating officer for both the hospital and hemodialysis facilities.

The opening of the Hemodialysis Center is being delayed by the lack of certification from Medicare. In the lifting of jeopardy status and the ongoing work for the reverse osmosis system certification, the hospital official is confident on the forthcoming opening of the facility.

Saipan Tribune learned that there are a total of 38 stations at the center and it can treat an estimated 27 patients.

Detention of Saluta causes jobless wife to walk with 5 children to school

With the continued detention of Noel Saluta, his jobless wife is left with taking care of their five young children, including a seven-month baby.

"It's really hard because three of my children are going to school," Juliet Saluta, a Filipino, told *Saipan Tribune.*

Since Juliet does not drive, she would just walk with her children in going to William S. Reyes Elementary School from their rented house.

"If it's raining hard my kids are absent from class," said Juliet.

Before 7am, Juliet would carry their baby, tow a two-year-old boy, as three other children walk with her on their way to school. The walk would take them five minutes to reach WSR.

At 11am, Juliet would carry their baby again and the 2-year-old boy to pick up their child from school, who is at Head Start.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Juliet Saluta carries two of her five children as she attends a bail modification hearing for her husband Noel on Thursday.

At 2:15pm, Juliet again would bring the three children back to WSR in order get their two children who are at second and first grades.

A neighbor said they pity seeing Juliet walking with all their five children back and forth to school during school days.

Noel Saluta surrendered to police last Sept. 22 after learning that there is an arrest warrant for him over an alleged assault incident that happened more than a year ago.

Mr. Saluta's arraignment will be today, Monday.

On Thursday, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo reduced the $10,000 cash bail that he earlier imposed on Mr. Saluta. Govendo restored the bail back to the original $5,250 cash upon Mr. Saluta's counsel's motion.

Govendo ordered the 40-year-old Mr. Saluta to answer the charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, and disturbing the peace.

Juliet Saluta said it is impossible for them to produce $5,250 cash since they have no jobs. She is offering to serve as third party custodian for her husband.

Assistant Public Defender Douglas Hartig said Mr. Saluta is not a flight risk as indicated when he voluntarily surrendered to authorities in his willingness to resolve the matter in court.

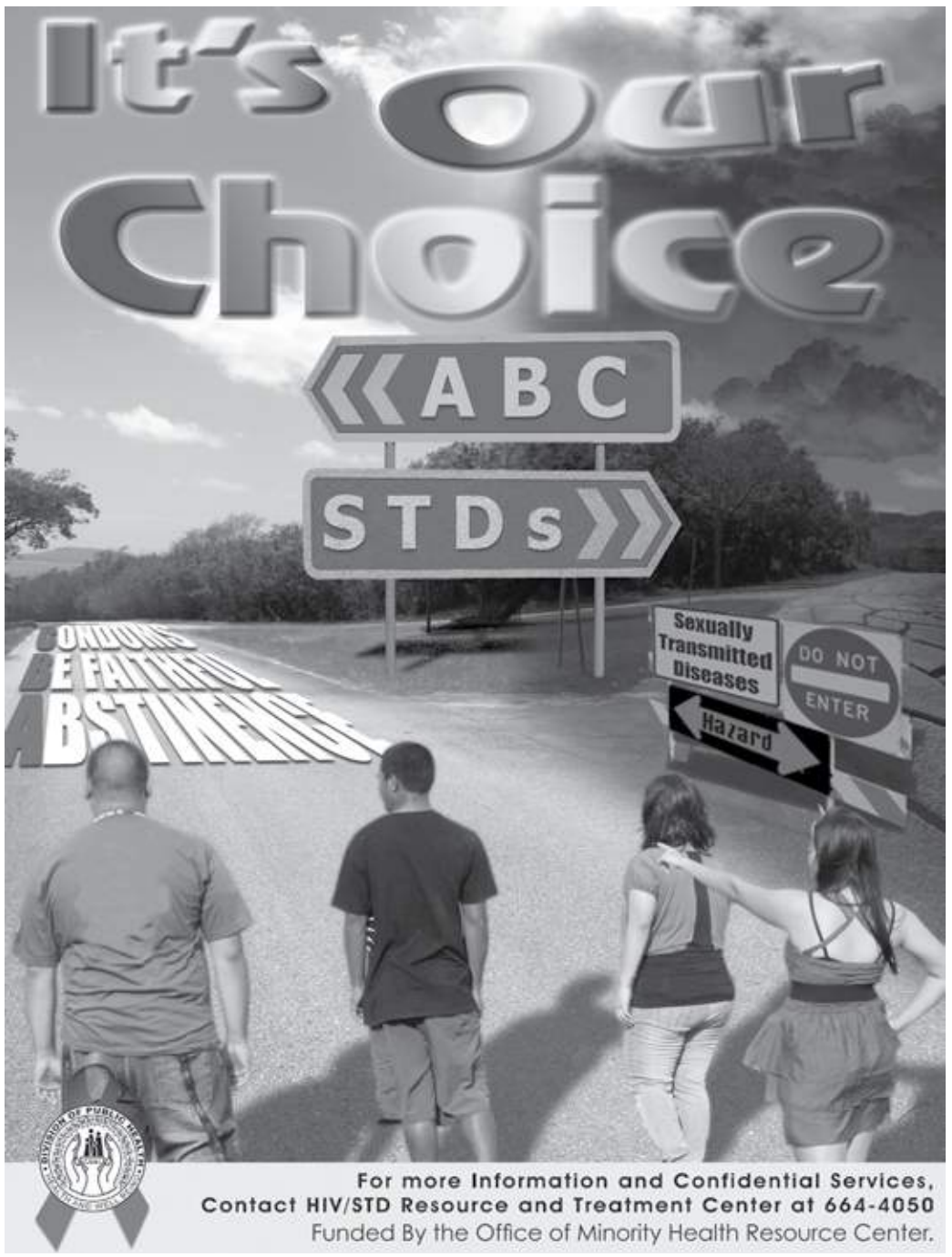
"Mr. Saluta should be allowed to return to his family pending final disposition of this case. The alleged offense is not an act of domestic violence and did not involve children," Hartig said.

Detective Sean White stated in his affidavit that the incident happened at Fina Sisu Market on April 19, 2009.

White said Saluta allegedly confronted Alejandro Orellano for staring at him and then chased him with a knife.

Saluta denied the charges.

Saluta recently attracted media attention after he and his family were forced to take shelter at the Susupe Regional Beach Park stage after being turned out from their rented house. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



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'Exercise, healthy diet keys in preventing cancer'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Engaging in physical activities and improving one's eating habits are among the recommendations that promote cancer prevention according to the American Institute for Cancer Research.

Public School System nutritionist Hee Jae Lee discussed these recommendations during her presentation at the Cancer Survivor Support Meeting last Sept. 29 at the Chamolinian Room of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Commonwealth Cancer Association program coordinator Tina Sablan said the meeting was attended by some 20 individuals.

Other recommendations include regulating one's consumption of sugary drinks and energy-dense foods, red meats and processed meats, alcoholic drinks, salty, foods and foods processed with salts.

Lee said exclusive breastfeeding up to six months is highly recommended but the use of supplements to protect against cancer is discouraged.

In an interview, Lee told *Saipan Tribune* that having a healthy diet can be achieved by introducing a variety of fruits and vegetables on a daily basis.

According to Lee, one should have at least 2/3 plant-based lunch and dinner and the other third should consist of a protein source like meat or fish.

"Fruits and vegetables contain a lot of phytochemicals that have protective agents against cancer," said Lee.

Lee said foods that fight cancer include beans, berries, cruciferous vegetables, dark green leafy vegetables, flaxseed, garlic, grapes and grape juice, green tea, soy, tomatoes, and whole grain.

She said these foods were recommended by the American Institute of Cancer Research because they are the most potent and most useful produce that have anti-cancer agents.

But Lee pointed out that people should not focus on just eating one particular food.

"The key point here is not to focus on one kind of food but to eat a variety of fruits and vegetables to maximize the benefits that come from consuming phytochemicals that are in these foods," she said.

Lee, who is a registered dietician, said eating fruits and vegetables is healthy because they lack cholesterol and saturated fat which could add on to gaining weight.

"Obesity is a risk factor for many different types of cancer," she explained.

According to Lee, being physically active is also important because inactivity and being overweight lead to Type II Diabetes which she said is prevalent in the CNMI.

Aside from cancer-fighting agents in the body, Lee also emphasized the importance of not having stress in life. "Those cancers that come from unhealthy lifestyle can be prevented by living a healthy lifestyle," she said.

American Mediscience University and investors sued over non-payment of rent

A private corporation has sued the American Mediscience University and several other Korean investors over alleged non-payment of rent on its premises in Finasisu.

SL Corp., through counsel Juan T. Lizama, sued the American Mediscience University, which was formerly called American Worldwide University.

SL Corp. also named as co-defendants Hyun Kim Dong, Gyun Han Chul, Kun Park In, Kyum Kim Hyun, Choong Kim Young, Joon Lee Yung, Nam Lee Joo, Kyu Lee Pok, Sung Kang Young, Jung Hee Kim, Me Ae Jeon, Chang Wook Park, Sang Moon Lee, Kang Sung Sook, Sung Kyu Kim, Mae Ae, and Kwon Hyuk Jong.

The co-defendants were either representatives or involved in the several transfer of lease of the subject lots to different investors.

SL Corp. asked the Superior Court to terminate the ground leases and rule that plaintiff shall take immediate possessions of the real properties—Lot 216-3 and Lot 216-2-1.

The plaintiff requested the court to restrain the defendants from asserting any right in the subject real properties.

SL Corp. also asked the court to order American Mediscience University pay the $142,000 rent now due under the ground leases.

Lizama stated in the complaint that, in September 2007, SL Corp. and defendant Sung Kyu Kim, on behalf of the American Mediscience University, renegotiated with SL Corp. for a new lease to be executed in connection with the property, Lot 216-3.

Lizama said the following month, plaintiff and the American Mediscience, through a representative Nam Gye Hyun, entered into a new lease in connection to lot 216-3.

Lizama said that in August 2008, American Mediscience University failed to pay rental as due.

"To date, defendant American Mediscience University owes plaintiff for unpaid rent in the amount of $52,000," the former judge said.

Lizama said that on Sept. 14, 2010, plaintiff purchased in fee simple lot 216-2-1 from Fermina M. Benavente.

Koresco Hotel occupies the two lots—Lot 216-3 and Lot 216-2-1.

The lease on the two lots was transferred to several investors. Subsequently the 1989 ground lease was assigned to American Mediscience in May 2007.

Lizama said the two premises, lot 216-3 and lot 216-2-1, have been abandoned for over two years and have deteriorated immensely through numerous vandalism.

Lizama said since plaintiff leased lot 216-3 to American Mediscience University, the same defendant has occupied and controlled 216-2-1.

Lizama said the two lots lodged the Koresco Hotel building inseparably.

"Since the abandonment of the two lots (premises) by defendant American Mediscience University, plaintiff and Fermina M. Benavente have taken over the premises and no other person has come to the premises under any claim of right to the same," Lizama said.

Lizama said as successor in interest of Benavente, plaintiff is entitled to the unpaid rent of $90,000 plus rent that will accrue up to the date of the termination of the lease. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CPUC approves interim tariff rates for MTC

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission approved interim tariff terms and rates for direct inward dialing service earlier proposed by the Micronesian Telecommunications Corp. and the commission's consultant Georgetown Consulting.

A permanent rate is scheduled to be voted on in the regulatory commission hearing set in November.

MTC is a regulated entity which serves as the Commonwealth's incumbent local exchange carrier.

The commission, during its recent meeting, said that MTC and Georgetown Consulting recommend that CPUC approve interim tariff terms and rates for direct inward dialing service of $85 per PBX trunk rate; $30 per PBX trunk termination; and $25 per assigned or reserved 100 block of direct inward dialing numbers.

These have been granted by the commission pending consideration of permanent direct inward dialing terms and rates during the November 2010 regulatory session.

CPUC also adopted MTC's capital divestitures and contractual agreements which may increase customer rates and charges. Under this protocol, which is generally patterned after that established for the regulation of CUC procurements, a review threshold of $475,000 was set. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

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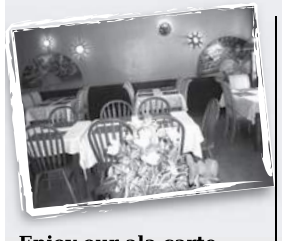

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Delay in evidentiary hearing sought in Rydlyme case

» US gov't wants retired Judge Munson to personally testify

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government has asked the federal court to continue an evidentiary hearing to a date when retired judge Alex R. Munson can appear in person at the hearing on Saipan pertaining to the issue whether or not Munson directed the public be excluded from jury selection in the trial of former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez and co-defendants.

"Because this court stands in a position to effectively reverse convictions duly-rendered by 12 members of the community, the matter is too important to submit as a 'battle of affidavits,'" said assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley in the U.S. government's motion to continue the evidentiary hearing.

O'Malley said depriving the U.S. government of Judge Munson's live testimony (not to mention the testimony of Marshals who worked the trial, but for whom it will be prohibitively expensive to return to Saipan), while allowing live testimony from defense witnesses, all of whom live in the CNMI, gives defendants Villagomez, James A. Santos, and Joaquina V. Santos an unfair advantage.

Munson has retired and now resides in the U.S. mainland.

Villagomez and the Santoses had asked the court to allow further briefing and conduct further proceedings to determine what truly occurred in the district court in so far as the question of public exclusion from the jury selection is concerned.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Mark W. Bennett last month granted the defendants' motion for reconsideration of his ruling to reject Villagomez's request to settle the record in the case.

Bennett set the evidentiary hearing on the defendants' motion to settle record on Nov. 8, 2010 at 9am.

In the U.S. government's motion to continue the evidentiary hearing filed on Thursday, O'Malley said in preparing for the hearing they contacted Munson, who currently resides in Idaho.

O'Malley said Munson stated that he will not be able to appear on or around the Nov. 8 hearing date.

In lieu of his appearance, O'Malley said Munson offered to submit a declaration attesting that there was no order to close the courtroom during jury selection.

The prosecutor said Munson, however, believes his declaration should only be in response to a stipulated request.

"Should the court insist on proceeding with the hearing as scheduled, the government will stipulate to a request that Judge Munson submit his declaration in lieu of testimony, but will do so while noting its objection," O'Malley said.

Villagomez and the Santos couple are currently serving their sentences in federal prison for their participation in the Rydlyme corruption scandal.

Hopwood to use laptops as incentives for students

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Hopwood Junior High School principal Jonas Barcinas said he will provide brand new laptops to deserving middle school students first as incentive for their hard work and commitment in their studies.

Saipan Tribune learned that Hopwood recorded 563 enrollees this school year, but only eight graders will first receive laptops this year. It also has 291 seventh graders and 272 eighth graders.

"I will work out a system to give those that rightfully deserve or work hard to earn it first then we will work [for the rest] until all of our students get their laptops," Barcinas told *Saipan Tribune* in an email when asked if all Hopwood students would receive laptops at the same time.

Last week, Public School System officials started the distribution of 5,200 laptops in private and public secondary schools. Hopwood, meantime, got its partial share last Thursday along with Marianas High School.

"We have the laptops at school but we will have to distribute it wisely and safely. Hopwood is using it as an incentive for students who are wearing their school uniform daily; for good behavior; doing their school work daily; and being the school's peace builder," said Barcinas.

The principal said the "incentive" will help the school alleviate and decrease disruption in the classroom, trouble on campus, and for students to focus solely on academics.

"It is vital that students work toward performing to standards, doing their school work consistently, not being disruptive, wearing their uniform, being a peace builder and every time the teachers hand us the lists of students to receive the laptops, then we will honor them," he said, assuring that all students will eventually receive the promised laptops.

Besides the positive impact on students, Barcinas believes that it would also help teachers focus more on their instruction.

The principal added that the laptops will not be distributed until both parents and students agree to the laptop policy agreement approved by the Board of Education.

Based on the policy, each recipient will be allowed to bring the technology at home and seniors will be given the opportunity to own the laptops after their graduation next year, while junior high school students would continue to use the laptops in their senior year.

The One-Laptop-Per-Child Project of PSS covers all public schools and private schools and received funding support from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Continental ends flights to Rota tomorrow, to resume in 2011

Continental Micronesia suspends its air service to Rota effective tomorrow, Oct. 5, but will resume the flights after April 2011.

The air service is operated by Continental Connection partner, Cape Air, using ATR aircraft with 46 economy class seats.

Continental is suspending the Rota service due to required scheduled maintenance work on the ATR aircraft that currently provides services to Guam's A.B. Won Pat International Airport, Rota International Airport, and Saipan International Airport.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) said Andrew Booney, vice president of planning for Cape Air/Continental Connection, confirmed that the flights to Rota will resume once the maintenance of its two ATRs is completed after April 2011.

He earlier asked Continental to reconsider its decision to suspend air service to Rota, citing its negative impact on the island's residents and tourism, but the airline recently said the resumption will happen next year.

"Your commitment and assurance of continued flights are crucial to the economic health of our island. Cape Air Service will dramatically defray the costs of travel for our citizens and the tourism industry," Manglona told Booney in an Oct. 2 letter.

Manglona said Continental's "assurance of continued service is deeply appreciated in this economic downturn and will help our residents and future visitors to Rota."

"The CNMI leadership is ready to do everything we can to make your return to the Rota market profitable for you and the citizens of the CNMI," he added.

Continenal/Cape Air has helped grow Rota's tourism since 2005. It has been bringing in mostly Japanese tourists to the island.

Despite the suspension of flights to Rota, Cape Air will continue to operate multiple daily flights between Guam's A.B. Won Pat International Airport and Saipan International Airport. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

US DOE awards $1.2M to UoG CEDDERS

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo announced last week that the U.S. Department of Education has awarded the University of Guam Center for Excellence in Development Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (CEDDERS) $1.2 million in discretionary funding.

UOG CEDDERS was awarded this highly competitive grant in order to recruit and train Master's degree level students who will, upon graduation, serve as teachers of the Visually Impaired and as Orientation and Mobility Specialists for children and youth who are blind or who have visual impairments. UOG CEDDERS will partner with the University of Massachusetts, Boston who will offer the degree program through the Northeast Regional Center for Vision Education (NERCVE) utilizing online as well as on-site instruction. Students will be recruited from Guam, the CNMI, American Samoa, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands.

"The funding received today from the U.S. Department of Education will help to expand the qualified pool of teachers available for students who are blind or visually impaired," Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo said. "I commend Dr. Robert Underwood, Dr. Heidi San Nicolas, and the UOG CEDDERS team for their work in securing this grant, and I look forward to this program benefitting our community in the future."

Dr. Heidi San Nicolas, Director of UOG CEDDERS, said, "This grant provides an opportunity for individuals across the region to earn a Master's degree with specialization in Visual Impairment and Orientation and Mobility. Once certified, these educators will be qualified to teach students who are blind and those who have visual impairments. We look forward to hearing from individuals who are interested in applying for this program which includes full scholarship support for up to 20 students. Funded students will be required to teach students with visual impairments upon graduation as a "pay back" for support received from this USDOE personnel preparation scholarship program." ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 4, 1999

Defense slams US gov't

Defense attorneys on Friday lambasted the federal government for filing "serious charges" against six Chinese men who they said were only guilty of desiring to be in the United States. The defense panel also accused the US government of taking advantage of the "desperation" of six material witnesses who had agreed to cooperate with the prosecution in hopes of being rewarded with asylum. There was no conspiracy. All they wanted was to come to America. They were desperate, and they would do anything to reach their common end. They were all victims. Victims of an ugly situation. Of the snake heads gang. Of the federal government. These sum up the defense panel's closing arguments.

"It has been a story-a sad story with a movie script, soon to be out on VHS," defense lawyer William Campbell said.

Four more RP clinics to be tapped for health screening

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez will meet with the Department of Labor and Immigration and the Philippine Consulate to discuss plans of tapping four more reliable clinics that will conduct health screening to nonresident workers who will be sent to the CNMI. With the implementation of Public Law 11-97, Villagomez said there is a need to begin the search for additional clinics to ensure the reliability of health clearances submitted to DOLI. Public Law 11-97 has set the standards for acceptance of health clearances from foreign countries for the purpose of entering the Commonwealth and obtaining work permits.

Oct. 4, 2000

Saipan has one of the lowest crime rate, survey claims

In an effort to allay fears regarding safety of the islands, CNMI authorities have beefed up security of tourists and visitors through programs aimed to combat crimes here, according to the administration. A statement from the Public Information Office also trumpeted findings of a recent survey conducted by a Japanese publication that showed Saipan as one of the highest-ranked destinations in terms of safety. The information came on the heels of a travel advisory posted at the website of Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs cautioning Japanese travelers of rampant crimes of robbery, murder, drug use and smuggling in the Northern Marianas, especially Saipan and Rota.

DD Council to purchase $50K state-of-the art van

The Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council has recently been granted authority to procure a $50,000 state-of-the art accessible vehicle envisioned to alleviate barriers that hamper the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities in regular community events. DDC Executive Director Tom Camacho said once the van is purchased, the council will turnover its operation to another company or organization. Funds for the major purchase was received by the council from the community block grant approved by Commonwealth Development Authority and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation.

Oct. 4, 2001

Task Force clears AGO lawyers in Sakura case

The government's anti-prostitution task force has clarified that no government lawyers under the Attorney General's Office were caught during the May 22 raid on the Sakura Massage Parlor in Garapan, contrary to the allegations raised by Rep. Stanley T. Torres. According to Philip Goodwin, consultant of the Tourism-Related Crime Prevention Task Force, he was in charge of the police raid mentioned in an earlier story by the Saipan Tribune and that no prosecutors were found in the business during the raid. "When we made the raid, which was the serving of search warrants, no prosecutors were found on the business. The only "customers" were Japanese tourists who were allowed to leave as the business was the target," Goodwin said.

Re-establishment of CNMI-RP links sought

Reform Party standard bearer Froilan Tenorio underscored the need to re-establish the link between the Philippines and the Northern Marianas. In a press statement, Tenorio acknowledged the continued contribution of the Filipino community to the CNMI, especially after the terror attacks on New York and Washington D.C. He said it is especially important during these times of danger and uncertainty that Americans and Filipinos work together in a common bond to keep the country strong. "We particularly appreciate the immediate response of the Philippine Government to cooperate in the fight against terrorism. It was a most encouraging gesture at a time when such gestures were sorely needed," he added.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-11-001

ADDENDUM NO. 1
September 30, 2010

Supply and Delivery of Facility Spill Response and Support Equipment: Power Plant No.1, Saipan

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is issuing the following amendments to CUC-IFB-11-001.

BOND REQUIREMENT: Bid, Performance and Payment bonds will not be required to be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury for this particular project. However, the Bidders Surety Company of choice, must be acceptable to the CNMI Office of the Attorney General and Bidder is required to submit a clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC), certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7).

/s/ ABE U. MALAE
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director
3rd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building • P.O. Box 501220 CK, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

CUC-RFP-11-002
DESIGN BUILD FOR SECONDARY CONTAINMENT AT LOWER BASE POWER PLANT 1 AND 2

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced design construction firms for the design and build of secondary containment at Lower Base Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The work includes some design of contract drawings and contruction of concrete containment. Deliverables also include submission of preliminary drawings, specifications, preparation of workplans for construction, then construction. The work must be completed by February, 15, 2011. All the work will be done as a part of the US EPA Stipulated order No. 2 response action and is subject to their approval. This project will be funded through the grant awarded by the US Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The Scope-of-Work will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, **until October 1, 2010.**

One (1) original and Six (7) copies must be submitted in a seal envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-11-002 Design/Build of Secondary Containment at CUC Power Plant Nos. 1 & 2"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No.4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O.Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **October 8, 2010 at 10:00 AM, (CST) local time.** A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Manuel B. Sablan, Procurement & Supply Manager at email msablan@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions will not be considered.

A Pre-proposal Conference followed by a Site Visit will be held on **October 1, 2010 at 9:30 AM (CST) local time** at the Saipan Lower Base CUC Power Plant No. 1 Administration Bldg.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A performance and payment bond of hundred (100%) percent each of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety for proposal security. The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a U.S. Treasury listed company. No advance payment will be authorized on the project or an Irrevocable Letter of Credit (100% aggregate contract cost/CUC Beneficiary) or a payment bond. All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less that the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (CHST) local time on **October 3, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Manager, Procurement and Supply Manager via email msablan@cucgov.net; Technical Manager for Oil, Mr. Will Sword via email sword.william@gmail.com and Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Managing Engineer, Power generation, via email venu@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract/s will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged by the Source Selection Committee (SSC). CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/S/ CHARLES WARREN
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofisinan I Gubietno
Dipåttamenton I Tano' Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extension of a lease on certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This lease extension is subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The leased premises is described as public land Lot No. 027 E 02, containing an area of approximately 4,530 square meters, more or less, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.

ii. The lessee is JL Reyes Incorporated, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are Juan S. Reyes, Dolores R. Tudela, and Leticia D. Reyes.

The President of the Corporation is Juan S. Reyes. The Vice President is Dolores R. Tudela. The Treasurer/Secretary is Leticia D. Reyes.

iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. Juan S. Reyes.

iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating the business of general contracting, construction, offices, materials/supply warehouse, and activities related thereto.

The term of the lease agreement extension is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the properties.

v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before October 14, 2010 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN EKSTENSION INATKILAN TANO´ PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi halom i Seksiona 106 (a) gi Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku guini na ha nå´i notisia i intension-ña para u rekumenda i ekstension ma'atkilan i pumalu na tano´ pupbliku siha gi halom Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan Na Islan Marianas Siha. Este na ekstension atkilon sinuhetu ni para u inapreba ni Lihislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islan Marianas siha sigun ni mamånda huyong gi Attikulu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion gi Sangkattan na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha håyi na petsona siha gi halom i pupbliku heneråt siña manna´hålom infotmasion, opiñon, pat testamonion kinentra gi tinahguen propositu siha para i inatkilan tano´ pupbliku. Komu mås mapribeniyi ginen i Lai Pupbliku 15-2, ni tinattitiyi ni pettanesen infotmasion ni dinimånda na para u mapupblika

i. I ma´atkilan tåno´ pupbliku madeskribi komu Lot No. 027 E 02, ni kinensisiste i åria gi kåsi propiu 4,530 square meters, potlumenus mås, ni gaige giya Lower Base, Saipan. i kopian i pumalu na lugåt gaige na gumuaha gi Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku Siha para i rikonosimento.

ii. I manatkikila si JL Reyes Incorporated, i Corportion. I Kuetpon i Direktot siha gi Corporation si Juan S. Reyes, Dolores R. Tudela, yan si Leticia D. Reyes.

I Presidenten i Corporation si Juan S. Reyes. I Sigundo Presidente si Dolores R. Tudela I Tresurårio / Sekritåria si Leticia D. Reyes..

iii. I maproponen ekstension atkilon manigosio gi as Siñot Juan S. Reyes..

iv. I manatkikila debi na u usa i lugåt siha uniku para i rason i manmaneha bisnes gi general contracting, konstraksion, ofisina siha, materiåt/supply na warehouse, yan i mana'achule' n aktibidåt siha.

I teman kontråtan inekstenden atkilon sa´ (15) åños.

I maproponen atkilon kada såkkan gi durånten i tema sigun gi percentage gi ma'estima gi fair market value gi propiedåt, inengklulusu i tumatachu na estrokto siha.

v. I kopian i maproponen kontråtan ekstension atkilon siha siña machule´ gi ofisian Dipattamenton Tåno´ Pupbliku Siha, gaige gi sigundo bibienda gi as Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; i sigundo bibienda gi Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; pat i primet bibienda gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.

vi. I Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku siha ha risibi tåya´ na tinahguen propositu siha para atkila i suheto i tano´ pupbliku giya Lower Base, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritårion i Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku siha debi na uma´aksepta i tinige´ infetmasion, opiñon, testamonion kinentra pat tinahguen propositu siha ginen i maninteresão na pattida siha gi pat åntes di Oktubre 14, 2010 gi Ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano´ Pupbliku siha ni manggaige giya Saipan, Rota pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwlil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Akkilon yeel nge ebwe mwir sangi alughulughul Sow Ffeerul Allegh mellol Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands iye e alléghewow mellól Article XI, Tálil 5(c) mellól Allégh Lapalap Northern Mariana Islands. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer nge rebwe isisilong aghiyghiir, awewee, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap mebwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoora, lamal awewee kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No.027 E 02, faawu sangaras limeigh me eliigh llapal (4, 530 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, elo Lower Base, Seipél Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.

ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge JL Reyes Incorporated, CNMI Corporation. Mwiischil samwool kkey (Directors) mellól Corporation nge Juan S. Reyes, Dolores R. Tudela, me Leticia D. Reyes.

Samwoolul Corporation nge Juan S. Reyes. Arúscheyil Samwool nge
Dolores R. Tudela. Treasurer/Secretary nge Leticia D. Reyes

iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. Juan S. Reyes.

iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yáali bwuley me mwóghut ágheli bisinisil pwol (contracting), construction, offices, peiraghil warehouse, me akkááw mwóghutul.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years)

Pomwol akkilon ye llól alongal ráágh nge ebwe mwir sángi llapal méél falúw (value of the property).

v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llol Tuturam, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.

vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipel.

vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal Ottuubre (October) 14, 2010 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

The son also rises

The top leadership of the Workers' Party in North Korea meets once every 30 years whether it needs to or not. The congress that opened Tuesday is the party's highest-level assembly since 1980, and seems to have been called to anoint a successor to "Dear Leader" Kim Jong Il _ presumably his youngest son, Kim Jong Eun.

The little Dear, who is twentysomething, was promoted just before the meeting to the military rank of four-star general, according to the country's official news media, which also happen to be the only news media in Kim-controlled North Korea. And that's about all we know of the events taking place in Pyongyang, in a global information age when far too much is communicated about things that don't matter, while dangerously little is available on the nuclear Hermit Kingdom and its next-of-Kim.

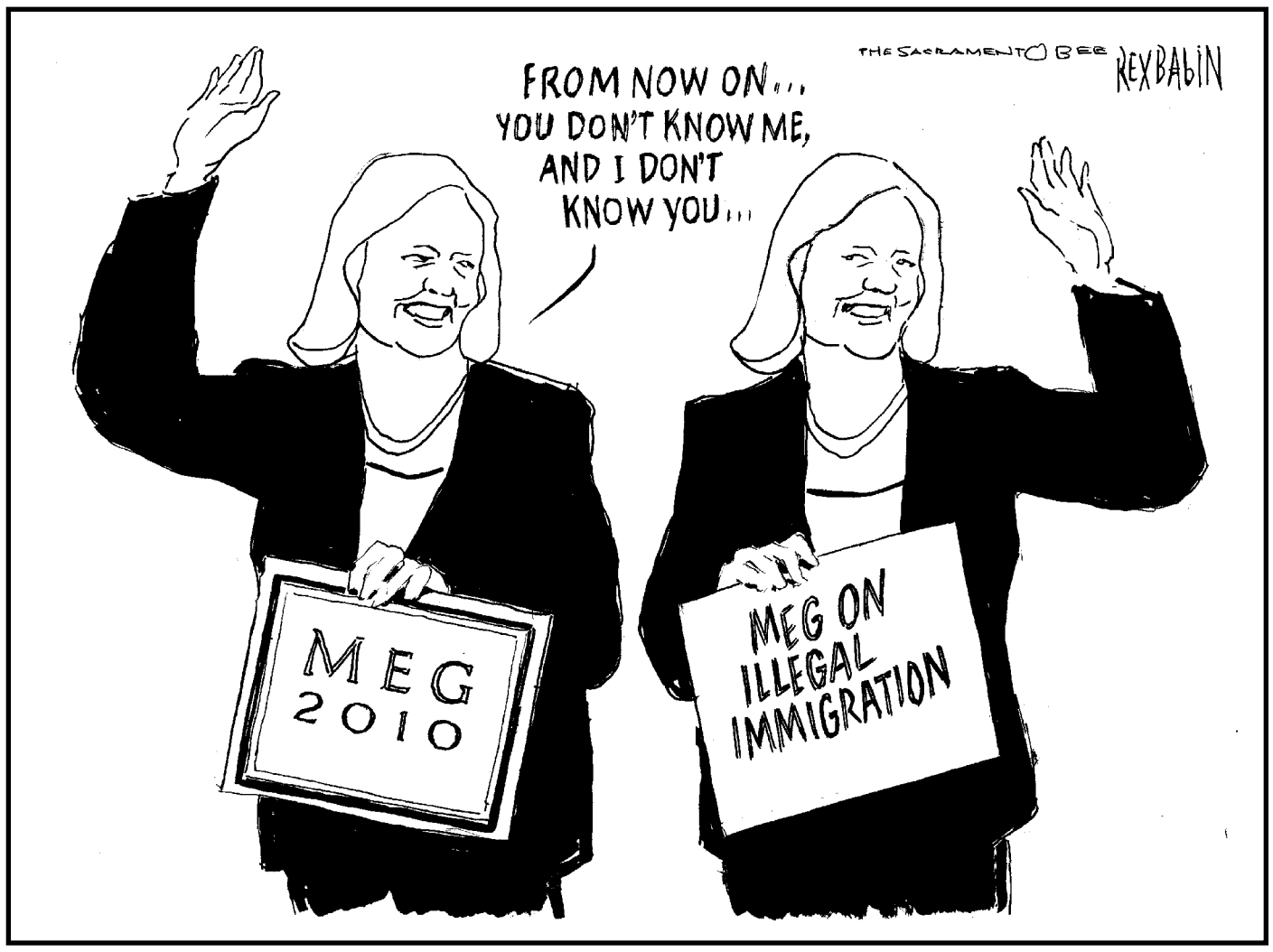
This page is not enamored of family dynasties, and even less so when the heir to the dictatorship is an enigma. There are a couple of childhood photographs of Jung Eun, who reportedly studied in Switzerland, supposedly is temperamental, likes basketball and, according to the family's former sushi chef, "never admits defeat." Korea-watchers believe he wouldn't make major changes in the way the government deals with the rest of the world, which is to say that he would maintain its adherence to juche, or self-reliance, through closed borders and a closed economy, and would continue its nuclear brinkmanship. Unless he feels the need to prove his mettle, in which case he could be even more bellicose than his father.

Or so it is said.

At the last party meeting, Kim Jong Il was declared the successor to his father, "Great Leader" Kim Il Sung. When he took the reins in 1994, skeptics said he'd never last. Now the same is said about the little Dear, whose aunt also was elevated to the rank of general this week, presumably so that she and her husband, who is vice chairman of the National Defense Commission, could serve as regents to the inexperienced next leader.

It is truly remarkable how little outsiders understand about this country of about 24 million people, who are as cut off from us as we are from them. China helps prop up the regime as a buffer between itself and the tens of thousands of U.S. troops in South Korea, and out of fear that the collapse of the Pyongyang government could send millions of refugees across their shared border. Asian markets also prefer stability over sudden change or, worse, unrest. The family dynasty mixes favors, ideology and ruthlessness to maintain its grip on power. North Koreans, meanwhile, suffer the regime's economic and political repression in a country that offers little information even to its own people.

(c) 2010, Los Angeles Times.



Let us hang our heads in shame

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Friday, Oct. 1, 2010, became a day of shame and disgrace for all of us. It will be remembered as a day of infamy and betrayal by people we trusted. For years we have been bleating like sheep about how wonderful we are. How we can manage ourselves! After all, we don't need the United States to tell us what to do. We are mature and a proud people. But today we hang our heads in shame and in disgrace!

Since Oct. 1, 2010, our beloved CNMI has become a nation both morally and economically bankrupt. We hang our heads in shame. We have shown to the world that we are no better than children of pre-school age in our thinking. We lack the ability to think ahead. We constantly fail to understand that as adults we must plan and prepare for tomorrow. Children can be forgiven, but we cannot be. There is no justification for the fear and disruption of family and social life we have committed.

My first impulse is to blame the administration, next the Legislature, but no, we must also blame ourselves. As Pogo, the famous cartoon character, always said: "We have met the enemy and it is us!" We all bear the shame and blame in this fiasco.

I write today with a heavy heart. It is pitiful to see our beautiful nation running headless and leaderless seeking directions. Our elected leaders have betrayed us, and harsh as it seems, we allowed them to do so. We knew, as well as they, that the day of reckoning was fast approaching. Yet we tolerated their dalliance. There are many things we could have done to prevent this day of infamy. It is futile to review the past events leading up to this disaster and more useless to point fingers at who is to blame. Regardless to whom we point fingers, the situation will not change. We know who the culprits are. They are a menace to our society with their arrogance and personal agenda. Now we must take action to prevent them from doing more damage by their inanity.

I offer my humble praise for the few who tried sincerely to right this infamous act but were outnumbered or overruled. There were several, but alas their voices were drowned out. But a word to the rest who allowed this to happen. You will not achieve your corrupt agenda. Those of you who followed like sheep to the slaughter will regret your silence and cowardliness.

Several burning questions remain: Why did all of you allow this to happen? Why did you toy so selfishly with the lives of your fellow citizens? How could you allow the disruption of an entire nation? Don't you feel shame or pity for your fellow citizens whose livelihood you have destroyed? How arrogant of the more powerful members among us to insist on trying to impose their selfish agenda on an entire nation? Do you feel morally good about what you allowed? Look in the mirror and see what you truly are. You can fool us but can you fool yourself?

You have placed your country and us in a state of shame and disgrace. You have made the CNMI pitiful and a laughable spectacle in the eyes of not only our neighbor Guam but the United States. I hope the United States imposes its will harder then ever on us now. That seems the one sure way for us to become mature and responsible citizens again.

Let us take this failure and learn from it. We still have means and ways to regain our self-respect. We must learn from this tragedy. We can lift ourselves up and overcome this inexcusable act.

As I have repeatedly discussed with you over and over previously, we must become a nation of workers. We must replace our non-resident workers and take up the tools and begin to work our land. We must become a nation of builders. We must cease thinking that outside investors are our salvation. We must become our own saviors.

Stop dreaming about casinos and drugs and other crippling and destructive means as the pathway to economic boom. If we really want to follow those paths than we must stop acting as pious people and throw caution to the wind. We cannot do something half-heartedly. It is like saying a girl is almost a virgin. She either is or she isn't. There is no half-way point.

We either sell our souls and become prostitutes and pimps because we want the dollars that come with that type of action. Or we get serious and develop our nation with pride and with our own two hands. Which will it be?

Let me be presumptuous and lay out what we must do to regain economic strength. I am willing to discuss or challenge anyone about this plan. It does not involve much money but it will involve our strong will and determination to succeed.

First, we must decide that we will work! Yes, work! We must turn our back on government jobs and cultivate our land as never before. We must apply for all the jobs in the private sector! There cannot be a feeling of "What me work for the minimum wage?" Unless we are trained or skillful, we will work in the private sector at any work we can get at the prevailing wage level. Remember the government is the "kiss of death."

Second, the Legislature must create an import tax barrier protecting all local industries against importing anything that we can raise, grow, or build ourselves. We must and will protect our own industries against imports. This will give motivation to us to grow, raise, and build things. Because of the high import tariffs, we will have

See LET US on Page 13

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Tiempon Eskases Giya Paraisu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Mampos didog i chinatsagan megai na familia na esta presisu na un' fan espiha fina' na'chaleg para un' lipa makat hinasso-mu. Era, guaha un' amiguhu hagas ha eskapaye tautau bañku lau pagu na biahe dimalas sa' ginacha' gi hiyuñg tenda.

"Ha gaput-yu si brutu dispues ha hala todu i guaha gi halom betsaghu kontodu dadalaghu!" Ha ke esplika hafa masusede lau o'sun i tautau bañku eskuson taya' pagamientu. A`Saina!

"Dispues makattaye-yu na para umachule' i gima yan karetan familia. Mientras tantos, mattu lokue' i tautau CUC ya ha utot i kandet yan hanom". Ai i prohimu, mauleg na ti ma-amot hi haaniña gi mismu sakudida.

"I gahu manog, babue, chiba yan guaka, ni unu malago umatan-yu guihe na pupueñge. Kulan mohon empleau bañku lokue". Ai i amiguhu.

'Nai humuyuñg gi chalan, ni unu lokue gi atuñgoña umayu'us-gue. "Ke lau i bañku ha' hu didibi haf" na para in' fañaunau gi problemahu?" Buente guiya este na haane 'nai lache na bandan katre 'nai tumunog.

Gi lapupueñge, humalom gi fina' resturan (restaurant) para u boka soba. Ha huñgog un' kanta mamamaisen "kau un' hahasso ha' yu". Tinatiye nu i otru kantan, "kau un' susuñgon ha' yu'". Tabla! Makat i tiempu na esta ti umaya "eskases" yan "paraisu".

Pot Attikulu Dose

Guaha hu huñgog malago' madibate pot asuntun Attikulu Dose. Esta na chaleg ayu na ginagau sa' tatnai ma-esplika kabales hafa gaige gi papa' este na probision konstitusion iya Marianas.

Hafa para ta dibate 'nai ni unu giya hita dueñu ni tanoña segun i Attikulu Dose? Hafa na i tautau hiyoñg ni man-estaba guine gi 1950 man-mapega kumu tautau Marianas ya i prefektu tautauta ni man-aigue man-mapega kumu tautau hiyoñg? Dinanche este na pinegan Attikulu Dose?

I Covenant ha sede hit rumikonose kau esta pagu propiu i probision siha guine na patte gi konstitusion iya Marianas. I disposision este na asuntu gaige gi publiku kau para umasustene 'sino ta funas petmanente.

Man-dueñu i mangai tanu praibet esta ennau i 1978 'nai humalom ya umeffektibu i Attikulu Dose. Ala kuenta, i usun tanomu debi u fattu ginen petmission i publiku. Pot este na rason na mediu dueñu hau gi un' sasañgan na tanomu.

Muñga mana' bulachu i asuntu. Sañgan dibuenamente hafa gaige gi probision Attikulu Dose. Na para i finañague gi publiku sa' esta siña ha disidin maisague. Ha tuñgu manaitai yan hafa direchoña.

Sige i man-makolehu man-adiñgan pot ekonomia. Estaba gi un' banda un' amku ume'ekuñgog ni madiskukute siha na puntu. Magahet na menhalom hombre ti kumuentos ni unabes.

Mamaisen dispues kau este i asuntun ekonomia pot neñkanu yan otro siha nesessidat familia? Ma-oppe i amku na dinanche sinañgaña.

Ilegña: "Pues nihi para i lanchu sa' bula tinala' katnen guaka, binadu yan babue. Kontodu kaddon manog fresko ni magulaiye dagu yan choddan tanduke, suffisiente. Guaha lokue tininon hañgun yan tataga yan kaddon guile".

'Nai sige mañochu, duru i chaleg pot todu i fino' niha pot inestudian ekonomian leblu! Ilegña i amku gi hilu pinasensia na dinanche i estudion niha lau dididi' chagu yan prefektu finapus tautau na tiempu.

Gumigimen dos amigu gi puntan pantalan Susupe. 'Nai esta 'las dose ya figan i semnag, ilegña i unu na para una freskugue'. Ha yutegue' ya sige munañgu dispues gi kinekiloña, ha lagnos un' inaflitun manog ya sige ha ñgañgas. Finaisen manu masuettegue petnan manog. Ilegña, "Pare, duru i gipot guihe papa'." Ha yutegue i amiguña lau ha birague hulu sa' mayamag mataña. 'Nai mafaisen hafa guaha, ilegña, "Pare todu esta man-bulachu ya mana' paydayyu gi kanton potta". A`Saina!

Letters to the Editor

'I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!'

One of my favorite movie lines of all time came from a 1976 film classic called "Network." In the film, Howard Beale, a longtime news anchor who is being replaced because of declining news ratings, snaps and delivers an angry rant about the problems affecting the nation. Beale tells his audience to get out of their chairs and go to their windows and shout, "I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!" People all across America respond, from suburbs to cities, and they start shouting and proclaiming that they're as mad as hell and that they're not going to take it anymore!

I couldn't think of a more fitting film to describe what exactly the CNMI needs right now. We all sit in our homes, wondering and worrying about the fate of our jobs and the future of our islands. There we sit, idle and despondent, too paralyzed to do anything, either from frustration or fear.

While we have often been told that cooler heads will always prevail, I think we have reached a tilting point in our Commonwealth history in which we can no longer sit back and remain calm while our leaders continue to decimate our once prosperous islands.

A few days ago, a friend of mine posted on his Facebook account, "Help! My government is being held hostage by a bunch of self-serving twits!" As funny as his post was, it rang so true. If you really think about it, we are all being held hostage by a leadership that is only concerned about one thing—*themselves*. Don't believe me? Let's examine an example of their greed and incompetence, shall we?

Greed, People's Exhibit #1: Every government employee of the CNMI has been told they must take a 16-hour pay cut, and that cuts are necessary to balance the budget. In the same breath, Speaker Froilan and members of majority insist on a $400,000 leadership slush fund so they can hire an economist and two more attorneys. At a time when we should be downsizing, Froilan wants to upsize! At a time when everyone must make sacrifices, Froilan and company want to be exempted! I suspect Froilan and his casino mafia want to handpick an economist to lobby his Saipan casino idea, and he needs two additional attorneys to find loopholes in the laws to make it happen. The truth is, there are some economists who are giving the CNMI free advice in newspaper columns and letters to the editor, and there are some economists who are already on the CNMI payroll. Froilan knows this, but he doesn't care. We all know that the only persons who will benefit from a Saipan casino is Froilan and his chosen few, and that they are certain to receive nice fat contracts as casino "consultants" or "commissioners."

Incompetence, People's Exhibit #2: While many concerned citizens want to attend House sessions, Froilan makes it next to impossible, unless you decide to set up camp at the Legislature. There were eight times in the last week that a session was scheduled and announced, and eight times they were canceled and rescheduled. In the meantime, those of us who took time off from work have to go back in to work and then take leave and return at the new rescheduled date and time, only to find out that the rescheduled time was again canceled and rescheduled! Is this a delay tactic, or just sheer incompetence? Knowing Froilan, it is probably both. But one thing is for sure. We, the general public, are being held hostage by political posturing, and we are being shut out from private, closed door sessions where secret wheeling and dealing trumps an ignored Open Government Act. To Froilan, the Open Government Act means we must open our mouths and have the government act by shoving a Saipan casino down our throats.

It isn't enough to get made solely at our leaders. If anything, we should get mad at the people who voted for this disastrous administration that has largely contributed to this bloated government. The fact is, the people who trek up to Capital Hill and attempt to attend all these canceled sessions are mostly people whose jobs are not directly affected by the shutdown. My question is, where are all the hundreds of people who are affected by the shutdown? I suppose they are in their homes or outside under their *pala palas*, sitting around, wondering what will happen next. And I am sure they are relying on people like Tina Sablan, who will fight their battles for them. It is depressing how so many in our community are so unwilling to stick their necks out for fear of losing their jobs. What is even more depressing is that the same people who are directly affected by these inept leaders will probably vote for these same inept leaders come election time. Why? Because people in our islands have short-term memories and tend to forgive and forget right before elections. I suppose the tents and tables, temporary jobs, free beer, empty campaign promises, and the almighty *chenchule* help erase painful memories of the suffering we all had to endure under selfish, arrogant, incompetent, short-sighted leaders.

If we really want change, our populace needs to stop sugarcoating the harsh truth. We need to stop smiling and patting our leaders on the back, as if they were doing a good job. We know there are better solutions to our problems, but the leadership refuses to listen to logic and reason, unless of course they are going to personally benefit from it.

The bottom line is, we need to tell our leaders that we are not satisfied with their poor performance. We need to tell them that we are tired of the political games they play at our expense. We need to tell them that the money they are dealing with belongs to us common folk, the taxpayers! We need to tell them that political consultants and slush funds and perks and junket trips should be on the cutting block before anyone else. And we need to get a thousand people together to march up to Capital Hill and shout at the top of our lungs, **"We're as mad as hell, and we're not going to take this anymore!"**

Perhaps then, and only then, will Froilan and Uncle Ben and the rest of this misadministration finally hear us.

Brothers and sisters, we are in this together. When a corrupt, oppressive government ignores the will of its people and oversteps its boundaries by ruling by fear and intimidation, it is time to get angry enough to do something about it. We can no longer go quietly in to the night. Get angry, and do not ask our leaders to change—DEMAND IT! In the end, if we fail to come together and rally against tyranny, then we will continue to get the miserable government we deserve.

God bless the good people of the Commonwealth.

Ed Propst
Dandan

We voted for the shutdown

If the government is truly of, for and by the people then yes the majority of voters are indeed responsible for the government shutdown. So if you are one of those who voted to put the powers that be in charge on Capitol Hill you shouldn't complain about what we are now facing. I've been telling people every since the U.S. Delegate race started that we voted ourselves into this mess and we must start voting ourselves out of it (or) pray for divine intervention. But I'm sure my warning will be much better received—because I warned the people in the last election that the casinos were going to be forced down our throats and the stage is slowing and surely being set—I told you so again!

The recent turn of events should have convinced many voters that they chose wrong but that does little good now because it is too late. Now I hope voters can understand why I have been trying to promote voter education in the delegate race because it is only second to the election of our governor. So do we vote to send our best qualified who is part of a team in Congress with the best chances for success or do we just let it be—again.

Personally I wasn't shocked at the shutdown because I knew more drastic measures would be applied to get the people to give in to a casino. Now the very person in charge of the budget is pushing for casinos all of a sudden—they are working like a tag-team to destroy any hopes for anything but casinos. The people and the Senate should never give in as the politics are now getting extremely ugly when so many people are adversely affected because of a few leaders in power. What gets me is the investor for the casinos is being kept secret from the people, which is clearly an indicator of the skullduggery and backroom deals that have been made. Don't be fooled by the shutdown, it's a political ploy and shame on them for pulling this one.

I can see past the smoke and mirrors politics and I pray this will help open the eyes of other voters because the shutdown is really about getting voters and certain leaders to give in to the casinos. But we must remain strong and demand for an economic revitalization plan that should have been developed five years ago and we still don't have one. I say this because former speaker Arnold Palacios made a very important point at a recent pocket meeting for Juan N. Babauta about how Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands both got $500 million from the U.S. specifically to develop their economy and the question every CNMI voter should be asking is where is our economic revitalization plan and who will get the money to make it happen?

The delegate race and the next midterm elections will be our next opportunity to start voting ourselves out of this mess by changing some of the leaders in the government for better ones. The politics of voters' decision making must change and get better or we are doomed to make the same mistake again. I truly pray this shutdown has taught the misguided and misinformed voters a lesson about politics that will make them smarter and better voters in the future for the sake of the Commonwealth because I know those who voted for their "personal intentions" have gotten a rude awakening with the shutdown of our government. The personal intention votes are truly hurting the CNMI the most because we obviously are not getting our best elected. Just remember the next time you vote that you must be willing to accept the consequences of your vote and you should vote smarter if you learned anything from this shutdown and the way our economy has not been handled. Don't be fooled in future elections and this won't happen again—vote for the CNMI in every election not your personal intentions.

Ambrose Bennett
Kagman

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

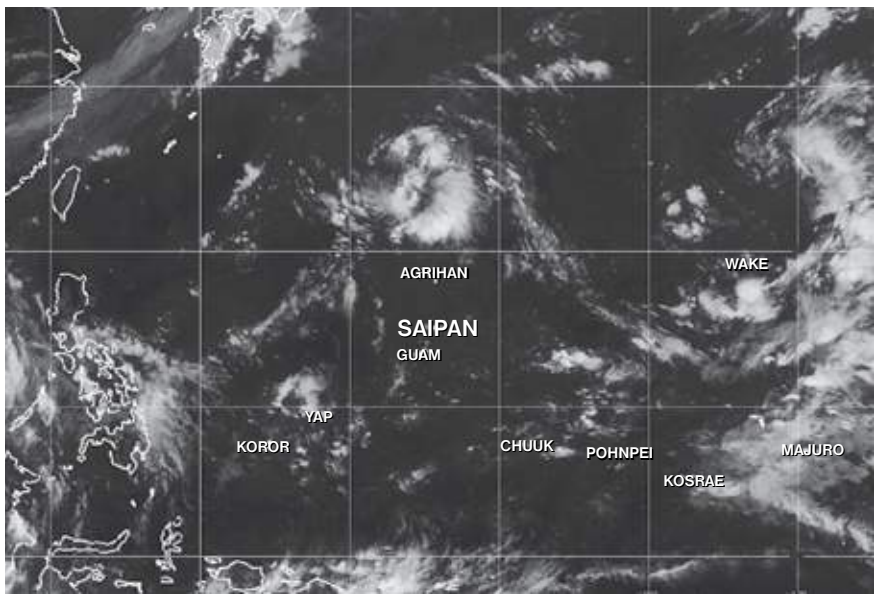
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86	▼78
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲62	▼53
Beijing	Sunny	▲74	▼47
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲85	▼68
Honolulu	Sunny	▲86	▼75
London	Rain	▲60	▼55
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼56
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲69	▼55
Miami	Showers	▲85	▼74
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼49
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲78	▼63
Paris	Showers	▲62	▼51
Pusan	Windy	▲70	▼61
Rome	Showers	▲78	▼58
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼51
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼55
Seoul	Showers	▲64	▼57
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲80	▼69
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼52

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends from northwest of Palau near 11N130E to end at Iwo To island. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring south of Iwo To island between 25N and 20N from 140E to 148E and just northwest of Yap within 120 miles of 10N137E. Another surface trough stretches southwestward from 15N160E to end near Chuuk. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found well north of Pohnpei within 50 miles of a line from 13N153E to 14N161E as well as east of Chuuk within 50 miles of a line from 7N154E to 11N157E. An upper-level trough extends southward from a low centered at 25N168E to end near 16N165E. Upper-level divergence south and east of these features is aiding in the development of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south and east of Wake Island within 200 miles of a line curving from 25N172E to 20N175E to 14N166E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers east of Kosrae over the Marshall Islands between 9N and 3N from 164E to 172E and between 14N and 7N from 172E to the date line.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:15 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
10:22 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
5:17 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:13 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:05 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM
Thursday	6:07 AM	6:02 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	6:02 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:11 AM	3:06 PM
Tuesday	3:12 AM	3:52 PM
Wednesday	4:12 AM	4:38 PM
Thursday	5:12 AM	5:23 PM
Friday	6:13 AM	6:11 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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- BUSINESS
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  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

No autumn in Manchukuo

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Manchukuo means Manchu Empire, the term Japan used to call the land of the Manchus in *Dong Bei* (Northeast China) when it reinstated the Manchus after its militaristic expansion of 1931. The capital Mukden (now Shenyang, Liaoning Province) was the loci of the initial unrest that launched the Sino-Japanese war, the rape of Nanjing, the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the imposition of the Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere to the world.

Saipan has a number of Chinese residents from Manchuria, some came as early as 1986 to work for our garment factories, along with many from the area between the Huang He (Yellow River) and the Chiang Jiang (Yangtze River). The pockets of Chinatowns awaiting clarity of immigration status in Saipan and Tinian are invariably from this region. (OK, we also have coastal folks from Fujian to Guangdong, either through Hong Kong or Taiwan, but our interest for now is Manchuria.)

In the more than 2,000 years of China as a nation state, two groups of foreign invaders occupied its imperial throne. The Mongols led by Genghis Khan (grandson of Kublai) decided to move out of the steppes and establish Beijing as the center of governance. The Yuan dynasty ruled for almost a century. Nei Mongol (Inner Mongolia) is part of China, although Outer Mongolia declared independence in 1921 and was internationally recognized in 1945.

Almost 300 years later, after the Ming dynasty waned (controversial OZ naval historian Gavin Menzie claims Ming Admiral Zhong He might have wandered into America in 1421), the Manchus north of the Great Wall invaded and founded the Qing Dynasty, but instead of over-lording it on the Hans, like the Mongols, the Manchus assimilated and Manchuria became part of China. Of course, they left their indelible mark as well. The long Chinese gown associated with traditional male attire and the braided pig-tail hair queue are Manchus.

Might you guess I miss teaching Ancient Civilization to the kids? Anyway, the Wunchang Rebellion in Wuhan 10.10.1911 sent the Qings back to Beiling (that's in Mukden), and Sun Yixian (Sun Yat-sen) began to journey China into the modern world.

Might have lost a few readers to 'cause of these inert trivia but I've been a Sinophile since high school (when I discovered I fade into the woodwork in China) and I also wanted to teach at the Shenyang Aerospace University this year. In its introductory video, SAU claims that Shenyang has no autumn. It moves directly from summer into winter! In fact, come Nov. 5, the government will turn on the heaters in all the homes, though many are already equipped with solar panels.

Now, what would a liberal education Social Studies teacher teach at an Aerospace University in China where social science and political science are practiced more on the side of dogma rather than inquiry? That's a Mao contradiction. Besides, SAU supports the military and aviation industries of China. But their international residents are from Ghana to France, Sri Lanka to Japan, Korea to Iran, etc., and I'd be a natural fit. But I am a borderline pacifist going to the experts on Beretta 9mm! My name is Jaime Bond, zero zero ocho! But for the cold, I would not mind autumn in Manchuria.

Anyway, I applied to SAU English language department knowing that the language of aerodynamics, particularly engineering, is as foreign to me as Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and Arabic, added the obvious hunkering down on my part to learn Putunghua, but that did not seem to be the problem. It got expressed in Yangshuo and Guilin in the karst country of Guangxi where the touristy ambience of the place attracts a lot of foreign language learners. I interviewed last May in both cities, and in both instance, they wanted "native speakers." My ethnicity was a block!

My Saipan barber put it this way: "I send son to school. Him to talk English. I pay big money. But I see you, you Firipin-ren. I close my eyes, I no hear English; I hear Firipin. Why I need to pay big money for?"

"But in the Marianas, in the U.S., and many other countries, plenty teachers come from Firipin?" I tried to salvage my pride with a tinge of pidgin.

"Hear Chamorros speak English?" she said in a tone that sounded not as a question but more like a statement: "I rest my case!"

They do call themselves the People of the Middle Kingdom, the center of human civilization. Coming from the fringe, we won't argue the point.

There's no autumn in Saipan, either. And though PSS is still only at 70+ percent HQT compliant by its own account, they don't seem to need my HQT. So, I will take the year off. At 66, I thought of visiting my two daughters, one in SoCal and the other, Chicago. Maybe, I'll find an old Corvette and traverse the whole length of Route 66. Might even take a side trip from Amarillo to Dallas where I went to school before heading back to Oklahoma, the State of Mongolian cousins who marched the Veil of Tears when their ethnic kind were herded to the reservations, and on to the land of Lincoln, Hillary and Obama.

"On a mendicant lifestyle?" my editor asks. The Rockies are resplendent in the Fall.

LET US

From Page 10

a local market to sell our goods. Because of this our money will stay locally and multiple as it circulates. Banks will be able to grant loans because they have money to loan.

Third, we open a slaughterhouse to butcher our locally grown livestock. By being able to have a certified slaughterhouse, farmers will be motivated to raise more livestock and sell their meat both locally and for export to Guam.

Fourth, once we begin to satiate our local market we can begin to export our goods to Guam who is fast becoming a nation of importers as they give up more and more of their land to the U.S. military. After checking the Guam farm statistics, I have found that yearly more and more farmers are moving away from farming. As a result, Guam is becoming more and more dependent on importing.

Fifth, to export on a competitive basis, a group of local investors will purchase a large aircraft or boat to ferry all our products to the military and the local market. By controlling our own shipping costs, we can be very competitive.

To sum up, we must become a nation of private sector workers where the real jobs are. We must become skilled tradesmen and tradeswomen not ashamed to work with our hands. The basic philosophy must be: **NO WORK—NO EAT!**

The other day I did some simple calculations about our potential work force. Say we have a population of about 35,000 local citizens. About 16,000 of them are on food stamps. That leaves 21,000 of which about 5,000 works for the local government. That leaves about 16,000 people. But subtract school children and senior citizens and ill people of about 12,000. There then remain about 4,000 able-bodied people for the private work force. But look 21,000 people or 60 percent of our population either are on welfare or on government dole. Ever wonder why we cannot succeed?

Laugh and call me a dreamer, but unless we change our thinking and decide to take matters into our own hands, we will never build a solid foundation independent of parasites such as those that betrayed us on Oct. 1, 2010.

It is not too late to begin the transformation from being a crippled and beggar nation to a proud, strong economical one. It is up to us! Let the Oct. 1, government shutdown be a wakeup call! Come! Take up our tools and begin the work for a better tomorrow. Only we can do it!

Letters to the Editor

Tropical depression: A recession in the making

The government's verge of collapse is of no surprise for they (the politicians) are all a sour concoction of hard liquor. The people running the show is why everything is falling apart at a speed 100mph heading south.

Of course, half the blame can be attributed to the governor himself, for being consulted by legal advisors that do more damage than good. "Better times" is probably still lurking in the minds around since that's the "selling promise" that jump-started this whole fiasco.

Nevertheless I knew it's going to happen so that they can come back with an excuse to tell high-risk employees they can't be renewed or laid-off when the government is back to normalcy.

The money is there but it is obviously being used for off-island travels and backroom hires which apparently is just a norm. Although countless "letters to the editors" submitted by individuals who offer superb ideas to help legislators to circumvent a problem may not be a quick fix, it has and always been very beneficial one way or another.

What are we to do now? " Rock-bottom times" to us selling hot-lunches just to expedite our medical referral. "Rock-bottom times" to us for living paycheck-to-paycheck to make ends meet. "Rock-bottom times" to most who was bought into thinking it's all going to get better. "Rock-bottom times" to each and every one of us. How it all came to a screeching halt?

Seriously, we can't all point the finger at the closure of the garment industry. Millions were collected and millions went out the door. If you think it's bad now, think next year's fiscal budget figures will be. Anyway, we have too many expensive vehicles bought and all they had to do is purchase Echo vehicles rather than use those V8 gas-guzzlers (not to mention constant use of air-conditioners.) Federally funded vehicles? Is the gas federally funded too? Think about it. Do they really need to drive with style and luxury? Too many secretaries in one office or too many phones in one office. Too many computers equipped with internet (email to the boss? Do away the cell phones). We have texting! No need for expensive contracts. No wonder why some employees are not productive. Look at our main and secondary roads from a bird's eye view, like a jigsaw puzzle! Anybody thought of repairing roads that leads to the tourist hotspots? Casino? What makes you think that tourists will spend an extra dollar going to Tinian if we have a casino on island?

In closing, let me share a little picker-upper that someone hand me that is really how the government operates. Here are the four basic norms: Smart Boss + Smart employee = Profit/Smart Boss + Dumb Employee = Production/Dumb Boss + Smart Employee = Promotion/ and my personal favorite, Dumb Boss + Dumb Employee = Overtime. Which one falls in your category?

Vince G. Cabrera
Chalan Piao

Tinian cries for help

Now that shutdown is here, can someone from social security come down here and take our application since there is no welfare for us?

Can the passport office come back so that we can renew, and apply for passport to find jobs abroad?

Can food stamp, Medicaid, LEAHAP, housing, retirement, OVR, WIA come down here too. Congressman Kilili, check *fan* this programs if the feds give them money for their office here and have them open up one for Tinian and Rota too. We don't have much here on Tinian because Saipanese people don't like to share and since you're the only Saipanese who share (beside my relatives) and have an office here, we believe you can work with the governor, the Senate and the House.

Believe me everyone not long ago when former Gov. Juan N. Babauta started the utility fuel charge to help pay for utility, we all voted for Gov. Benigno R. Fitual to stop the fuel chare. Did it happen? No, he found out that fuel charge really need to be sustained otherwise Saipan will loose that.

So, impeachment is not the solution, but a town meeting must be held so that our leaders can present their progress report and our situation.

Can you check fan the U.S. Department of Agriculture if they have any program from NAP we can apply to farm and make a sustainable living to pay for our remaining obligations and other necessity we can't buy with food stamps. NMC says CREES has these programs, but when I use to work there none of the programs they have is applicable to our way of living because the requirements to be qualifies are too complicated for some of the applicants to be able to complete.

They don't even do research for our cost of living to justify, what is low income for locals. So Congressman Kilili check *fan* the alternative, plus what grant program can help the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino recover through this economic depression, because all of us are relying on this industry for scholarship, transportation, jobs, medical assistant, and other necessities, which is also being affected by this economic depression.

For the WIC programs, why are senior citizens not qualified?

The NAP needs to research too, the families cost of a healthy living and the cultural diet to provide families with effective healthy education that they can do.

Our airport and seaport, need harbor patrol to check our water boundary and make sure that no illegal aliens enter. I heard that there are a lot of guns being imported.

We need the Food and Drugs Administration here to provide food safety education to consumers and providers, so we know that the food we buy are not poisoned or spoiled. We also need FDA to help educate farmers and ranchers to inspect meat, poultry, and vegetables for parasites, poison, and unsafe/expired food products, and how to operate the slaughtering house and packaging of fruit, meat, fish, and vegetables.

We need our share from Karidat so that we don't have to wait for Saipan to send the funds down when ever we need it.

Winnie Atalig
San Jose, Tinian

AFTER SERVING FOR OVER 20 YEARS

Two DPS officials retire

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two officials of the Department of Public Safety have retired after serving the CNMI for over 20 years.

Fire chief for administration Francis Songsong Taimanao, 42, and Police Sgt. Sylvan Malite Rangamar, 43, were honored by DPS during their last day in office on Thursday.

Taimanao served DPS for 22 years, while Rangamar for 23 years and five months.

DPS acting commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro and Capt. Lawrence Camacho handed certificates of appreciation to Taimanao and Rangamar for their "exemplary dedication" to public service.

DPS spokesman Sgt. Thomas A. Blas Jr. said what the two officials have done for the department until their retirement is a marvelous achievement.

"Their determination to reach their goal has been admirable. I'm sure their families, who have been their chief supporters, must be very proud of them. They are a good role model," Blas said.

Blas said for the families of Taimanao and Rangamar, the department wants to thank them for the way they supported their brothers over the 20 some years in their pursuit of their career.

"We do understand the long hours they have all worked have been a strain on their families, and your support has been outstanding. Their work has been an essential part of our success as a department," Blas said.

In an interview, Taimanao said after he graduated from the Fire Academy he worked for the DPS Fire Division for a short number of years, then got transferred to DPS Training Section.

After serving nine years at Training Section, Taimanao was transferred to federal programs handling fire grants, where he subsequently spearheaded the federal programs office.

Until his retirement, he headed the federal programs office although his official position was chief of fire for administration.

"I reached my time. I did my time," said Taimanao, adding that it's his time to go in order for those in the "bottom" to move up.

On his advice to young officers, Taimanao said everyone in the department is an asset and equally important.

"Just do the right thing that will benefit not only himself or herself, the department, but most especially the community. That's the most important thing," he said.

Rangamar on the other hand, was all tears during his brief speech.

In an interview, Rangamar, whose last assignment was commander of Traffic Section, said retiring brought mixed emotions.

He said he has been doing his job as a police officer for many years where there's a lot of challenges, and that will change today, Friday.

Rangamar said he thought of retiring when he and his family were in Hawaii last year. He said they are planning to move to the U.S. mainland by next year.

Rangamar's advice to the young officers is just to stay focus on whatever their mission is and make sure to do it properly.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Fire chief of administration Francis Songsong Taimanao, left, and Police Sgt. Sylvan Malite Rangamar retired on Thursday after serving the CNMI for over 20 years.

MVA joins JATA World Trade Fair 2010

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan-da draws a crowd to the Northern Mariana Islands booth during the Japan Association of Travel Agents World Travel Fair on Sept. 24-26, 2010, in Tokyo.

Marianas Visitors Authority reached out to over 110,000 travel trade representatives, media representatives, and potential visitors recently at Japan's largest annual travel show, the Japan Association of Travel Agents (JATA) World Trade Fair 2010.

Japan is the Northern Mariana Islands' largest tourism market, and JATA is the country's national organization of travel agents and suppliers promoting the travel and tourism industry. The fair, also the largest travel fair in Asia, was held Sept. 24-26, at the Tokyo Big Sight East Hall. In addition to distributing destination information and answering questions at the Northern Marianas booth, MVA livened up their presentation with demonstrations of Carolinian bead and *mwar* (floral head lei) making and the art form of banana painting.

The fair featured 914 exhibition booths with 685 companies and organizations from 139 countries and regions. The Northern Marianas promotion was led by MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. Also participating were MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman, and marketing specialists Hiroko Tenorio and Brenda Repeki, key staff from the MVA Japan office, and a number of island entertainers and booth assistants.

The Japan Saipan Travel Association also had two booths inside the Saipan, Tinian, and Rota display at this year's fair. Members shared information about the three islands and played destination-related games with the audience.

"Attendance at the JATA World Trade Fair provides the MVA the opportunity to get our product in front of tens of thousands of people in one short weekend," said Perry Tenorio. "It's a must for any national tourism agency that wants to attract visitors from Japan."

In addition to the JATA World Travel Fair, MVA held a separate Marianas Seminar and Workshop for 79 travel agents and media representatives on Sept. 24 to provide details about attractions in this resort destination.

The bi-annual meeting of the Japan-Marianas Tourism Club (JMTC) was also held on Sept. 24, where the MVA met with key tourism partners and briefed them about on-going and upcoming plans and projections related to the Northern Marianas tourism industry. ***(PR)***

New Naval Base Guam shopping guest policy

SANTA RITA, Guam—Naval Base Guam Commanding Officer Capt. Richard Wood announced Wednesday a trial period for a limited guest policy for shopping at the Navy Exchange and Commissary on Naval Base Guam.

According to Capt. Wood, his goal is to allow active duty military, reserve, retirees and government civilians with privileges and who are over 18 years of age the opportunity to have one visitor accompany them as a guest into the Commissary and Exchange. Escorting an additional guest would be the exception and may be authorized at the discretion of the store manager.

The guests are accompanying the shopper, not shopping themselves, Capt. Wood said. This new guest policy is for the convenience of the shopper, who might otherwise have to leave a sponsored guest at home, in the car or waiting in the NEX food court.

"My goal is to improve the shopping experience for Sailors and their families while not negatively impacting the overall ability of the NEX and Commissary to meet the needs of our military, civilian and retiree community," he said.

The new policy memorandum states the guest privilege may be restricted on "high volume", "special sales" or "authorized shoppers' days" which will be announced in advance. The policy could be revoked if the NEX tracking shows shortages in stock or excessively crowded stores.

This guest policy does not affect the policy for base access, said Capt. Wood. Any person entering Naval Base Guam must have base access privileges or be sponsored by an individual with base access privileges. ***(PR)***

2-year probation for woman who shipped unregistered pesticide

The federal court has imposed a two-year probation sentence on a woman who carried 1,600 packets of unregistered pesticide from China and distributed them on Saipan.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Philip M. Pro ordered that defendant Yuqiong Zheng, a Chinese national, shall be turned over to a duly authorized immigration official for deportation proceedings.

Pro prohibited Zheng from using or possessing a controlled substance other than that prescribed by a physician.

Pro, however, suspended the mandatory drug testing requirement based on the court's determination that the defendant poses a low risk of future substance abuse.

The judge required the defendant to pay a $5 court assessment fee.

The two charges in the indictment were dismissed.

Zheng and her court-appointed counsel, Steven Pixley, signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government. The defendant pleaded guilty to the information that charged her with one count of distribution of unregistered pesticide.

The judge granted her plea and the agreement.

During Wednesday's hearing, assistant U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler and Pixley recommended a probation sentence.

According to the plea agreement, on Oct. 8 to 9, Zheng traveled aboard Northwest Airlines from China to Tokyo, Japan, then on a connecting flight to Saipan.

In her checked luggage, the defendant concealed over 10,000 packets with a total weight of 200 lbs of various suspected pesticides manufactured in China.

Among these packets were 1,600 packets of a Chinese pesticide known as Buprofezin.

Buprofezin is classified by the Environmental Protection Agency as a pesticide. Buprofezin was not a registered pesticide under the U.S. law.

Nevertheless, Zheng distributed the pesticide by shipping it to the CNMI. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Business

US to warn Americans to be vigilant in Europe

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration will warn U.S. citizens to be vigilant as they travel in Europe, providing updated guidance prompted by al-Qaida threats, American and European officials told The Associated Press on Saturday.

Such a move could have negative implications for European tourism, business and diplomacy if travelers fear there's a possibility of terror attacks.

The State Department will issue a "travel alert" for Europe on Sunday morning that advises Americans to stay vigilant on the continent because of threat information, senior U.S. officials told the AP. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because a final decision has not been announced.

"This travel alert is a cumulative result of information we have received over an extended period," one senior administration official said. "We are constantly monitoring a range of threat streams and have monitored this and others for some time."

State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley declined to comment on the matter. But he said the administration remains focused on al-Qaida threats to U.S. interests and will take appropriate steps to protect Americans.

A European official briefed on the talks said the language in the U.S. alert is expected to be vague. It won't address a specific country or specific landmarks, the official said.

European and U.S. officials have not identified any specific targets that terrorists might be considering, the official said. Officials have called the threat credible but not specific. Officials have been concerned that terrorists may be plotting attacks in Europe with assault weapons on public places, similar to the deadly 2008 shooting spree in Mumbai, India.

Delta and BOG review progress of visa credit card partnership

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Delta Air Lines (Hong Kong) marketing specialist Sarah Kwok, Delta Air Lines (Guam) sales manager Marie Lizama, Bank of Guam president, board chair, and CEO Lou Leon Guerrero, Delta SkyMiles Asia Pacific and Latin America Programs (Atlanta, the U.S.) general manager Marc Ferguson, Bank of Guam SVP/marketing administrator Jackie Marati, and Delta Air Lines communications manager (Philippines, Australia and Guam) Patricia Celis pose during a break in their meeting last Sept. 20.

HAGATNA, Guam—Executives from Delta Air Lines met with Bank of Guam officials last Sept. 20 to review the progress of their Bank of Guam/Delta Air Lines Visa Credit Card partnership, as well as to plan for the coming year.

That evening, Delta SkyMiles Medallion Program Diamond and Platinum members were feted at an appreciation reception at the Hyatt Regency Guam.

Bank of Guam president, board chair, and CEO Lou Leon Guerrero noted, "We are very pleased with our partnership with Delta Air Lines since it has offered travel and employment opportunities for our island communities. We continue to work directly with their decision-makers in providing greater value to our Bank of Guam Delta Air Lines Visa card members, as well as Delta Air Lines travelers, and are excited about new offerings in 2011." ***(PR)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Details emerge on no-tax California budget pact

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—After a record-long impasse, California legislators are set to vote this week on a no-new-taxes budget that relies on a combination of spending cuts and optimistic financial projections to close a $19 billion deficit. Details of the agreement between Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders began emerging Saturday ahead of a vote by rank-and-file lawmakers planned for Thursday. If approved, it would end a budget stalemate that has already stretched for 94 days. The state would cut about $7.5 billion in spending as part of the deal, down from the $12 billion Schwarzenegger proposed earlier this year.

Judge asked to postpone trial for Gulf spill cases

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Some of the companies sued over the massive Gulf oil spill are asking a federal judge to postpone until 2012 a trial designed to assign percentages of fault in the ill-fated Deepwater Horizon drilling project. A court filing Friday by Halliburton Energy Services, Cameron International and other companies says they need more time to prepare for a trial on the case's "limitation and liability allocation issues." U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier was asked to delay the trial from October 2011 to February 2012. Barbier didn't immediately rule. Barbier presides over more than 300 consolidated lawsuits spawned by the April 20 explosion on the Deepwater Horizon, which killed 11 workers and triggered the spill. Rig operator BP PLC and rig owner Transocean Ltd. didn't immediately join in Friday's request.

Nation

DC rally shows support for struggling Democrats

WASHINGTON (AP)—Tapping into anger as the tea party movement has done, a coalition of progressive and civil rights groups marched by the thousands Saturday on the Lincoln Memorial and pledged to support Democrats struggling to keep power on Capitol Hill.

"We are together. This march is about the power to the people," said Ed Schultz, host of "The Ed Show" on MSNBC. "It is about the people standing up to the corporations. Are you ready to fight back?"

In a fiery speech that opened the "One Nation Working Together" rally on the National Mall, Schultz blamed Republicans for shipping jobs overseas and curtailing freedoms. He borrowed some of conservative commentator Glenn Beck's rhetoric and vowed to "take back our country."

"This is a defining moment in America. Are you American?" Schultz told the raucous crowd. "This is no time to back down. This is time to fight for America."

With a month of campaigning to go and voter unhappiness high, the Democratic-leaning organizers hope the four-hour program of speeches and entertainment energizes activists who are crucial if Democrats are to retain their majorities in the House and Senate. The national mood suggests gains for the GOP, and Republicans are hoping to ride voter anger to gain control of the House and possibly the Senate.

GOP's Whitman blames opponent for housekeeper flap

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—GOP gubernatorial candidate Meg Whitman accused Democratic rival Jerry Brown on Saturday of orchestrating a scandal over her former illegal immigrant housekeeper, a charge that prompted Brown to fire back and say Whitman won't take responsibility and is not fit to be governor.

The issue dominated the candidates' second debate, held in one of the most economically distressed regions of the state, after a week that has upended Whitman's campaign.

"The real tragedy here is Nicky. After Nov. 2, no one's going to be watching out for Nicky Diaz," Whitman said, referring to the former housekeeper, and turning to face Brown directly shortly after the start of their second debate. "And Jerry, you know you should be ashamed, you and your surrogates ... put her deportation at risk. You put it out there and you should be ashamed for sacrificing Nicky Diaz on the altar of your political ambitions."

Brown responded by saying Whitman, the billionaire former chief executive of eBay, was trying to evade responsibility.

Free speech cases top Supreme Court docket

WASHINGTON (AP)—First Amendment cases top the Supreme Court's docket as it begins a new term with a new justice and three women on the bench for the first time.

The court will look at provocative anti-gay protests at military funerals and a California law banning the sale of violent video games to children. These cases worry free speech advocates, who fear the court could limit First Amendment freedoms.

The funeral protest lawsuit, over signs praising American war deaths, "is one of those cases that tests our commitment to the First Amendment," said Steven Shapiro, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Another case involves a different aspect of the First Amendment, the government's relationship to religion. The justices will decide whether Arizona's income tax credit scholarship program, in essence, directs state money to religious schools in violation of the constitutional separation of church and state.

Under Chief Justice John Roberts, marking his fifth anniversary on the court, and with the replacement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor by Justice Samuel Alito, the court has been more sympathetic to arguments that blur the line between government and religion, as long as one religion is not favored over another.

ACROSS THE NATION

Missing pilots cast pall over balloon fiesta in US

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Hundreds of balloonists in New Mexico lifted off Saturday at dawn amid a somber mood, opening the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta while search crews on the other side of the globe scoured the seas for two of the sport's most acclaimed pilots. Richard Abruzzo of Albuquerque and Carol Rymer Davis of Denver were participating in the 54th Gordon Bennett Gas Balloon Race when contact was lost Wednesday morning over the Adriatic Sea. Scuba divers joined in the search efforts Saturday, but race organizers said the two plunged toward the water at 50 mph (80 kph) and likely didn't survive. Kevin Knapp, a pilot and deputy director of the America's Challenge gas balloon race scheduled to begin Tuesday in Albuquerque, acknowledged the mood is more serious this year, but he said friends and colleagues of the pair are holding onto any hope.

Hose falls from Marine plane onto SD County house

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A 75-foot refueling hose fell from a large cargo plane that was part of an air show Saturday and landed on a house in a San Diego County neighborhood, according to military officials. No one was injured. Investigators were trying to determine how the heavy-duty retractable rubber hose became detached from a C-130J Hercules, Maj. Jay Delarosa of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar said. The house in Carmel Mountain just north of the Marine base sustained roof damage.

Retired navy nurse Cashmere Monroe was in the garage when the hose hit her home, and her 14-year-old daughter was in the house.

Police: Traffic stop leads to Phoenix drop house

PHOENIX (AP)—Phoenix police say a traffic stop has led to a drop house where 27 suspected illegal immigrants were staying. Sgt. Steve Martos says officers who stopped a vehicle for a minor traffic infraction at about 11 a.m. Saturday questioned the people inside, who told them they had just arrived from Mexico and that other illegal immigrants were in a nearby house. Martos says officers who went to the house found four women, one child and 22 men inside.

Asia

RP tour guide's protest offends Catholics

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Government prosecutors on Friday charged a popular Manila artist and tour guide with offending Roman Catholics after he disrupted Mass at the capital's main cathedral to protest the clergy's opposition to contraception.

Public debate over family planning has simmered again in this predominantly Catholic country after President Benigno Aquino III last week expressed support for the right to contraception, angering the powerful church.

On Thursday, Carlos Celdran, who is known for distributing condoms and birth control pills to poor residents as he guides tourists through Intramuros, the Spanish colonial-era walled city, interrupted an ecumenical Mass at Manila Cathedral.

Dressed in a 19th-century outfit, the performing artist approached the altar and told the priests to stop getting involved in politics and not to threaten civil disobedience against any government plan to promote family planning and birth control, according to police.

He carried a placard bearing the name "Damaso," seen in the Philippines as a term of insult for priests. Damaso is the name of a friar depicted in a novel by national hero Jose Rizal who was openly strict with religious practices yet secretly fathered a child.

AP

Carlos Celdran holds on prison bars inside the detention cell Friday, Oct. 1, 2010 in Manila, Philippines.

Celdran, 37, was arrested at the cathedral and freed almost a day later on 6,000-peso ($138) bail. Friends of the artist had set up a Facebook fan page calling for his release, drawing more than 12,000 supporters by the time he posted bail.

"I apologize for being rude, but it was necessary for me to be rude," he told reporters while in custody on Thursday. "I am sorry for the method that I used but I have no apologies for the message that I made."

He was shown on television kissing the hand of the rector of Manila Cathedral, Monsignor Nestor Cerbo, while offering his apologies.

Police officer Jun Gumaru said prosecutors had charged Celdran with "offending religious feelings," which carries a maximum penalty of six years' imprisonment.

In a statement Friday, Manila's 238 priests expressed "disapproval and condemnation" of the protest.

Pakistanis push trade, not just aid, after floods

FAISALABAD, Pakistan (AP)—This eastern Pakistani city is known for the roar of its power looms and the buzz of its sewing machines. Now, following massive floods that devastated the cotton crop, another noise is threatening to drown those out: the pleas of a struggling textile industry begging the U.S. and Europe to open their markets further.

It's a tough sell in the West, where the economic slowdown has left governments skittish about concessions that could cost jobs or votes. The European Union has agreed to tariff cuts, but only temporary ones. The United States, where control of Congress is at stake in elections next month, is avoiding them altogether, touting instead its billions in taxpayer-funded humanitarian aid.

But Pakistan argues that trade, not aid, will deliver long-term economic stability and also help combat terrorism by giving poor youths an alternative to joining militant movements: money and jobs.

The country's textile industry, which employs more than 10 million people and produces more than half of its $19 billion in annual exports, has been hit hard by electricity and natural gas shortages, inflation and deteriorating security conditions in the past three years. Then, this summer's floods wiped out 2 million bales of cotton.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Contender for Nobel prize is in Chinese prison

BEIJING (AP)—When the police came for Liu Xiaobo on a December night nearly two years ago, they didn't tell the dissident author why he was being taken away again. The line in the detention order for his "suspected crime" was left blank. But Liu and the dozen officers who crowded into his dark Beijing apartment knew the reason. He was hours from releasing Charter 08, the China democracy movement's most comprehensive call yet for peaceful reform. The document would be viewed by the ruling Communist Party as a direct challenge to its 60-year monopoly on political power. Liu, who over the past two decades had endured stints in prison and re-education camp, looked at the blank detention notice and lost his temper.

Police accused of beating AP reporters in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Two Associated Press journalists were assaulted by police Friday at a roadblock in Indian-controlled Kashmir, and one was knocked out by blows from rifle butts and batons. Local journalists have repeatedly complained of harassment and assaults by police during turmoil in the Himalayan territory that has killed more than 100 people since June, most of them demonstrators and bystanders. With a curfew in place, AP Television News journalists Meraj Uddin Dar and his son, Umar Dar, were stopped at a checkpoint as they drove to work Friday. Police inspected their identity cards and curfew passes—which are given out by Indian authorities to journalists allowing them to work—and initially refused to let them pass. Officers relented after the reporters protested.

Indonesia investigates train crash that killed 36

PETARUKAN, Indonesia (AP)—Police were investigating a train crash Sunday that killed 36 people and injured dozens, putting a spotlight once again on Indonesia's aging infrastructure and poor safety record. The pre-dawn accident occurred Saturday as many passengers were sleeping. A train from the capital, Jakarta, plowed into the rear of another that was sitting at a station in Petarukan, a coastal city in Central Java province, knocking several carriages off the track. The force of the crash woke Anwar Sumarno, a university student, with a bang. The lights went off in his cabin and he could hear people screaming.

World

Osama bin Laden softens tone, but to what end?

CAIRO (AP)—Softening his tone, al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden issued a humanitarian appeal on Saturday urging Muslim governments to do more to help Pakistan's flood victims and expressing worry about climate change. It was his second purported audiotape in as many days.

The less aggressive approach contrasted with al-Qaida's previous calls for a violent response in what experts say could be a "good cop, bad cop" ploy to exploit anger over the flooding and rally support for the terror network. Al-Qaida is under pressure to refurbish support among Pakistanis as it faces a surge in U.S. missile strikes and government crackdowns on insurgents who easily move between Afghanistan and Pakistan's porous border. American officials have asserted for months that the core of the network has been weakened and is struggling to raise money and attract recruits.

Bin Laden, who is believed to be hiding in the lawless border area that separates the two countries, said governments of Muslim nations have not done enough to help Pakistanis hit by devastating floods that killed hundreds and affected about 20 million people this summer.

"The effort should have been bigger from the beginning," he said in a recording posted Saturday on militant websites. It was distributed along with a photograph of a smiling bin Laden superimposed over pictures of flood victims.

He also singled out Arab leaders, accusing them of failing to respond to a calamity in a fellow Muslim nation and asserting that the U.N. secretary-general did more than them to help Pakistan.

Bin Laden has often sought to package himself as a senior statesman. In this recording, he assumed a tone more measured than past videos and recordings in which he and his deputies called for the leaders of Muslim nations like his native Saudi Arabia to be overthrown.

Experts said he was likely trying to broaden al-Qaida's appeal beyond its traditional extremist support base while remaining devoted to the network's campaign of violence.

The messages coincided with reports that bin Laden was behind the terror plots to attack several European cities. If true, that would be the most operational role that bin Laden has played in plotting attacks since Sept. 11, 2001.

"Bin Laden is dancing above the fray and addressing broader issues that give him the appearance of a benevolent father figure to embattled Muslims," said Evan Kohlmann, a terrorism analyst with Flashpoint Global Partners, a New York-based security consultancy. "Perhaps bin Laden sees this as a way of swaying those on the edge towards supporting him."

A copy of the 13-minute, nine second audiotape, entitled "Help your Pakistani Brothers," was made available by the U.S.-based SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadi forums. Its authenticity could not be independently confirmed, though the voice resembled that of bin Laden in previous confirmed messages.

In a similar recording released Friday, bin Laden called for the establishment of a relief organization to prevent flooding in Muslim nations, create development projects in impoverished regions and improve agriculture to guarantee food security.

U.S. and Pakistani officials have often expressed fears that militant groups in Pakistan could drum up support by exploiting frustration among Pakistanis who feel aid has not reached them quickly following the floods that swept through the country starting in late July.

Palestinians back Abbas on settlement slowdown

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—Dozens of senior Palestinians on Saturday backed President Mahmoud Abbas' refusal to negotiate with Israel as long as it builds in West Bank settlements, dealing a new setback to troubled U.S. efforts to salvage peace talks.

Israel refuses to extend a 10-month-old curb on settlement construction, while Abbas says there is no point in negotiating as long as settlements eat up more of the land the Palestinians want for a future state.

The Obama administration has said it will keep pushing to find a solution to the impasse, and U.S. envoy George Mitchell is now scrambling to enlist the help of Arab leaders to rescue the negotiations. The Palestinians' final decision on whether to quit the talks is expected at an Arab League summit next weekend.

However, Saturday's unanimous decision by dozens of senior members of the Palestine Liberation Organization and Abbas' Fatah movement makes compromise increasingly unlikely. "The Palestinian position is clear," senior Abbas aide Nabil Abu Rdeneh said after the three-hour meeting at Abbas' headquarters. "There will be no negotiations as long as settlement building continues." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is equally adamant about not extending the curb on settlement construction, and reiterated as recently as Friday that he would not budge. On Saturday, he urged Abbas not to quit the talks.

WORLD BRIEFS

20 kidnapped in Mexican resort city of Acapulco

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP)—Gunmen kidnapped 20 men who were traveling together in Mexico's Pacific coast resort city of Acapulco, authorities said Saturday. A shootout between drug gangs, meanwhile, left 14 people dead in remote town in the northern state of Durango, Mexican newspapers reported. The group of men in Acapulco was visiting from the western city of Morelia and looking for a place to stay when they were abducted Thursday, said Fernando Monreal, director of state investigative police in Guerrero state, where the resort city is located. He said the kidnapping was reported by a man who had been with the group.

Nigeria: Ex-militant leader arrested over bombings

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—South African authorities have arrested an ex-leader of a militant group that claimed responsibility for a dual car bombing that killed 12 people in Nigeria, a Nigerian secret police spokeswoman said Saturday. The arrest of Henry Okah, a former leader of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, came as Nigeria's secretive State Security Service acknowledged it received a warning about the impending attack long before the bombs exploded Friday. Nonetheless, the militant group was still able to detonate the explosives only a 10-minute walk away from a ceremony in Nigeria's capital Abuja attended by the president and other dignitaries in the oil-rich nation.

3 police colonels investigated in Ecuador revolt

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—Three police colonels were under criminal investigation Saturday for failing to prevent a massive protest by their subordinates against President Rafael Correa that spun out of control, claiming at least five lives. The three are being investigated for negligence, rebellion and attempted assassination, said Prosecutor Gonzalo Marco Freire. Ordered arrested on Friday, they were released Saturday on their own recognizance by a judge who barred from leaving the country.

Health & Fitness

Beet it: To exercise longer, try beetroot juice

By MARIA CHENG
AP MEDICAL WRITER

LONDON (AP)—When Chris Carver ran an ultra-marathon in Scotland last year, which challenges athletes to run as far as possible within 24 hours, he ran 140 miles (225 kilometers).

Determined to do better in this year's race, Carver added something extra to his training regime: beetroot juice. For a week before the race, he drank the dark purple juice every day. Last month, Carver won it by running 148 miles (238 kilometers).

"The only thing I did differently this year was the beetroot juice," said Carver, 46, a professional runner based near Leeds, in northern England.

He said more exercise would have improved his endurance, but to get the same result he attributes to the juice—an extra eight miles—it would likely have taken an entire year.

Some experts say adding beetroot juice to your diet—like other foods such as cherry juice or milk—could provide a performance boost even beyond the blood, sweat and tears of more training.

In two studies conducted at Exeter University on 15 men, Stephen Bailey and colleagues found cyclists who drank a half-liter (about a half-quart) of beetroot juice several hours before setting off were able to ride up to 20 percent longer than those who drank a placebo blackcurrant juice.

By examining the cyclists under a scanner that analyzes how much energy is needed for a muscle to contract, Bailey and colleagues discovered beetroot juice allows cyclists to exercise using less oxygen than normal.

"The beetroot juice was effective even without any additional training," Bailey said. "It reduces the energy requirements on your muscles so you can last longer." While the beetroot juice was provided free by its manufacturer, Exeter University paid for the research.

Bailey said the high nitrate content of beetroot juice is responsible for its athletic benefits. Scientists aren't exactly sure how it works, but suspect having more nitric oxide in your body, a by-product of nitrate, helps you exercise with less oxygen. Bailey said the same effects might be possible if people ate more nitrate-rich foods like beetroot, lettuce or spinach.

Bailey and colleagues calculated beetroot juice could translate into a 1 to 2 percent better race time, a tiny improvement likely only to matter to elite athletes. They are still tweaking the dosage but say athletes should consume the juice a few hours before training so their body has time to digest it. Their latest study was published in June in the Journal of Applied Physiology.

"Drinking beetroot juice is not going to turn a recreational runner into an Olympic champion, but it might make tolerating more exercise easier so you can train more," said Dr. Andy Franklyn-Miller, a sports medicine expert at the Centre for Human Performance in London. He was not connected to the research and has not received any funding from beetroot juice makers.

Franklyn-Miller said since people often reach an athletic plateau where more training doesn't help, beetroot juice could give you an extra edge you wouldn't get otherwise.

"It's not banned, so there's no reason not to try it," he said. Still, he warned drinking too much of the juice could lead to side effects like abdominal cramps, diarrhea or purple urine.

Previous studies in Britain and the U.S. have found beetroot helps the heart by lowering blood pressure.

Other experts warned manipulating your diet can't replace the benefits of training. "Certain foods can help you maximize the benefits from exercise, not reduce the amount you're doing," said Roger Fielding, director of the Nutrition, Exercise Physiology and Sarcopenia Laboratory at Tufts University. He was not connected to any research on beetroot or any other nutritional supplements.

For serious athletes, Fielding said changing your diet could help. "If a very small improvement is valuable to you, it's possible something like beetroot juice could do that," he said.

Other studies have shown drinking things like pickle juice or having a small carbohydrate snack during a marathon, can prevent cramps and improve performance. Scientists have also found cherry juice, which helps reduce exercise-induced swelling, could be strong enough to reduce some athletes' use of anti-inflammatory pain medication.

Fielding said the benefits of beetroot juice and other foods and drinks could have wider benefits and might one day be used to help elderly people with muscle weakness.

Some elite athletes warned beetroot juice may not be to everybody's taste. "A few of my friends think it's really disgusting," said Colin McCourt, 25, a British runner competing at the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi this month.

In April, McCourt started drinking cherry and beetroot juice, which he credits with helping him train longer and more often. "I feel like I get a benefit from it, even if it's minimal," he told Associated Press Television.

McCourt said he will continue to adjust his training regimen in preparation for the London 2012 Olympics, but plans to maintain his juice habit. "There will be a lot more beetroot juice if my stomach can take it."

AP
Professional runner Chris Carver prepares to drink beetroot juice in his home in Otley, England, Friday Sept. 17, 2010.

Kids with ADHD more likely to have missing DNA

By MARIA CHENG
AP MEDICAL WRITER

LONDON (AP)—Children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder are twice as likely to have missing or extra chromosomes than other children - the first evidence that the disorder is genetic, a new study says.

British researchers compared the genomes of 366 white British children from 5 to 17 years old with attention deficit hyperactivity, or ADHD, to those of more than 1,000 similar children without the disorder. The scientists focused on a sequence of genes linked to brain development that has previously been connected to conditions like autism and schizophrenia.

In children without ADHD, about 7 percent of them had deleted or doubled chromosomes in the analyzed gene sequence. But among children with the disorder, researchers discovered about 14 percent had such genetic alterations. Scientists also found that 36 percent of children with learning disabilities in the study had the chromosomal abnormalities.

ON THE NET
http://www.lancet.com

"This is the first time we've found that children with ADHD have chunks of DNA that are either duplicated or missing," said Anita Thapar, a professor at the MRC Centre in Neuropsychiatric Genetics and Genomics at Cardiff University who was one of the study's authors.

She said the findings are too early to affect diagnosis or treatment and are only applicable to people of European Caucasian descent because studies have not been done yet on other ethnicities.

The condition is estimated to affect millions of children around the world, and scientists have long thought the disorder has a genetic component.

U.S. experts estimate that ADHD affects from three to five percent of school-age children in the United States. There are no figures for developing nations.

The study was paid for by Action Research, Baily Thomas Charitable Trust, the Wellcome Trust, Britain's Medical Research Council and the European Union. It was published online Wednesday in the medical journal Lancet.

Peter Burbach, a professor of molecular neuroscience at University Medical Center Utrecht in the Netherlands, was surprised some of the genetic defects found for ADHD were identical to ones for autism and schizophrenia. He was not connected to the Lancet research.

"There's a great chance the environment is modifying these genes," Burbach said, adding the genes could lead to several brain disorders, depending on things like the child's upbringing and other genetic factors.

He also thought scientists might eventually be able to reverse ADHD.

"This is not a structural abnormality in the brain, it's just the last phase of development that's gone wrong," he said. "It could be the brain just needs to be fine-tuned."

Philip Asherson, a professor of molecular psychiatry at the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College London, said the study only dealt with a subset of people with ADHD and said the environment should still be considered a cause. In the case of some Romanian orphans, Asherson said there was proof that severe deprivation at an early age can lead to ADHD or other neurological problems.

Asherson said the medical world was still years away from being able to correct ADHD.

"The study doesn't tell us a lot about what's going on in the brains of people with ADHD," he said. "If we can find out more about these genes and how they affect brain development, that may give us inroads, but it's hard to say when that will be."

Focus

Racial violence changes student—and school

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Duong Nghe Ly can't wait to begin his senior year at South Philadelphia High School. A day of violence there last year changed his life, and he wants to learn if his school has been transformed as well.

Last Dec. 3, after years of attacks on Asian immigrant students, something finally snapped.

Fueled by rumors, a group of students roamed the halls searching for Asian victims until one was attacked in a classroom. Later, about 70 students stormed the cafeteria, where several Asians were beaten. About 35 students pushed past a police officer onto the so-called "Asian floor," but were turned back. After school, Asians being escorted home were attacked anyway by a mob of youths.

Almost all the attackers were black—but few observers believe the violence was due to racial hatred. Instead, they cite isolation of different groups within the school, certain students' warped "gangster" values, and for some, simmering resentments over perceived benefits for Asian students.

About 30 Asians were injured that day; seven went to hospitals. Past attacks had been reported to administrators and police, but students say nothing seemed to change.

Ly (pronounced LEE) was in the lunchroom for what he calls "the riot." Days later, he was followed home from school and punched in the face on his front stoop.

He had arrived from Vietnam two years earlier, speaking nearly no English, the son of poor, uneducated parents. He thought America would be like the "Hannah Montana" TV episodes he had watched in Vietnam. What he found was closer to "The Wire." So he kept his head down, sought silent refuge among his countrymen and tried to make his way through the broken system.

Dec. 3 was a turning point. He realized the system must change—and that he and his fellow immigrants were the ones to make that happen.

Their method? Guided by local activists, and despite reservations from some parents, about 50 Asian students boycotted school for a week.

"Before, I was timid. I didn't really want to get myself into trouble," says Ly, 18. Then he realized, "If everybody's silent, nobody speaks up, the problem keeps going on without being resolved. I feel like I or my friends have to speak up and organize to tell people this is not right.

"We had to fight for it."

Duong Ly's parents, ethnic Chinese who grew up in Vietnam, worked 27 years to grasp the bottom rung of the ladder to American success.

His mother, Phung Mac, attended school through the second grade, when her family ran out of money to pay for more. His father, Tu Ly, made it through the sixth grade. In 1981, they submitted their first paperwork to immigrate to the United States.

"You had to have a certain background to go to school, be in the Communist Party," Tu Ly says in Cantonese as his son translates. "Your grandparents had to be a party member for you to get into good schools. Otherwise it cost a lot of money to get an education."

Ly's parents lived in Ho Chi Minh City, eking out a living selling "pho" noodle soup, rising at 5 a.m. and working in their shop until 9 or 10 at night. All extra money went toward school for Duong (pronounced YUHNG) and his older brother, and fees for immigration paperwork. At times they could not pay their rent and were forced to move, but they always made sure their boys stayed in school.

Ly's mother developed painful hip problems. Her younger brother, who had already moved to America, sent money to pay for an operation. It was unsuccessful—the doctor said it was "an experiment. If you want a better ... operation, you need to pay more money," she says in Cantonese.

In 2008, after spending about $20,000 on immigration fees, the family was approved and came to Philadelphia. "We finally achieved our wish: freedom," Tu Ly says. "We finally had a chance for a better education."

AP

This Wednesday, June 23, 2010 photo shows Duong Nghe Ly in Philadelphia.

South Philadelphia High looms over an entire city block in a poor section of South Philadelphia long populated by descendants of voyagers from Italy, other European nations and the black American South. Asians and Latinos are now coming in greater numbers. Today, the school is about 70 percent black and 18 percent Asian.

During Duong Ly's first year, there were 45 reports of "dangerous incidents" such as weapons possession or assaults at the school of about 1,000 students, enough to earn a "persistently dangerous" label from the state. There also were 326 reports of lesser crimes such as fighting, threats or robberies. The graduation rate was 48 percent. Only 16 percent of students were proficient or better in reading and 8 percent in math, according to state test results.

Within weeks of starting school, Ly was robbed in the bathroom. His older brother was punched in the face. "Our friends told us, 'Just suffer it,'" Ly says.

They didn't report either incident.

Duong Ly speaks dispassionately, expressing no racial animosity, when asked to explain how fellow students could commit such vicious attacks.

"Because they live in a violent environment," he suggests. "Maybe their parents have problems and troubles, so they want to express their anger by violence."

His father also declines to condemn the attackers. "In Vietnam," he says, "the original Vietnamese people don't like us because we are a different ethnicity. People from the countryside who move to the city get discrimination from city people. It's the same here. They don't have an understanding about who we are. Discrimination happens in every society."

About a dozen black students were suspended or expelled after Dec. 3. Their names have been kept secret, and they have not commented publicly.

Some other black students show little sympathy for them. "They're just hating on other races. They don't have anything better to do with their lives," says Tyreke Williams, who graduated last June.

Wali Smith makes no excuses for the attacks, but understands where they come from. A community specialist who holds workshops on anger management and conflict resolution in various schools, he witnessed the Dec. 3 violence.

The South Philly native says blacks have always felt marginalized in the neighborhood dominated by Italians and Irish. Now, some students feel an almost unconscious resentment when they see their Asian counterparts studying on their special second-floor sanctuary, which was established to provide language programs and provide a more welcoming environment.

"Those (black) kids feel the majority of the staff there does not care about their education," Smith says. "They see these Asian kids come in and be nurtured, and they want that same kind of comfort."

Then there is a small group of troublemakers with a value system that says, "it's cool to be gangster," Smith says. "But really you're afraid, a scared coward. So you take advantage of weak people."

"It's not based on race, it's based on opportunity," Smith said of the history of violence against Asians. "If they go to the bathroom and take your money, and you don't report it, they'll just keep riding it until the wheels fall off."

The Asian students and activists reserve almost all of their criticism for administrators and the school district, which they say consistently failed to protect students.

A school district spokesman did not return a call for comment. Administrators have insisted that they responded to Asian students' complaints and tried their best to combat violence that has become part of the culture for some Philadelphia youths.

"These problems are long-standing and go beyond the school and into the community," district superintendent Arlene Ackerman said a week after the attacks.

A report by a retired judge, which was commissioned by the district, said there were confrontations between a small group of black and Asian students on Dec. 2 that led to the widespread Dec. 3 attacks on random Asians. The report was criticized by Asians who say it failed to account for years of documented violence and that investigators did not interview many student victims and witnesses.

Yet Duong Ly is still enthusiastic about his school. He says the English as a Second Language program is good, the teachers care, there are plenty of computers with Internet access—and it's all free.

"If I study hard I will get a lot of opportunities, scholarships, grants...," he says. "It's rewarding to work hard and study hard here, more than in Vietnam. I can go to a better school, go to college, get a career, then I can take care of my parents. So I like it more here."

He also likes his new home, a narrow, two-story row house bought from his uncle. They are the only Asians on the block.

The front door opens into the living room, where the family's bicycles (they have no car) share space with an old, fat television, couches and a folding table for meals. On the far wall is a handsome curio cabinet of polished wood, ornately carved, holding photographs of ancestors.

Tu Ly works as a cook in an Asian supermarket. His wife is unemployed. The family has permanent resident status and expects to become naturalized citizens within a few years. Recently, Medicaid paid for a hip replacement for Duong's mother.

"We owe this country a lot," Tu Ly says. "The government paid a lot of money for my wife's operation. We will work our best to contribute to society. My children can choose whatever job they like, as long as they do something to contribute to this country."

The boycott was not an easy step to take. Some students were afraid of being expelled. Many parents were against it, fearing their children would become even more conspicuous targets. Some said local activists were making the situation worse.

Once it started, though, attitudes changed. "After the boycott, I felt much more confident and powerful because our voices were heard by the people," Duong Ly says.

The district installed 126 security cameras. A "50-50 club" took Asian and black students on group outings. More bilingual staffers and diversity training were added. Principal LaGreta Brown was forced out on the eve of a faculty no-confidence vote after a local newspaper discovered her certification had lapsed.

All eyes are on the incoming principal. Otis Hackney III is 37, a black Philadelphia native, fresh from two years as principal of a mostly white suburban high school. He got the call from Philly one night when he was standing on the sidelines of his school stadium, watching a lacrosse game under the lights.

"My first thought was, you've got to be kidding me," Hackney says during an interview in his new office, the cinderblock walls bare except for a picture of the singing legend Marian Anderson, class of 1921. Soon, though, Hackney accepted the challenge. His immediate agenda includes building a relationship with the Asian community and creating a group of school stakeholders who meet regularly to set goals.

Hackney says all students should feel comfortable approaching him: "I want to listen more than I speak. Students are often much more honest than adults." He bought a new conference table and spiffed up a room for community meetings: "The message is, this is an important place where we talk about important things." He's getting Asians out of their special floor and into the rest of the building. He's looking at United Nations-style translation headphones for immigrant parents.

He is the fifth principal in six years, and he wants to stick around.

There is much to heal. The Vietnamese embassy has complained to the U.S. State Department. The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund filed a complaint with the Justice Department, which on August 27 found merit in the claims and advised the district to settle the matter. An investigation by the state Human Rights Commission is pending. The dynamic that exploded on Dec. 3 has not disappeared.

"If you're that angry and frustrated about something that your behavior manifests itself that way, what are we not addressing as a school, as a community?" asks Hackney. "As African-Americans, we can't forget our own struggle to the point that we become what we fought so hard against."

"That's one side. The other side is, when you have an immigrant population that comes in, what are the skill sets they need to function in this society? It can be very difficult for that child and that family to function in schools. So how do you put all that together? That's my job.

"Part of it is getting people to see the human side in every person, identifying with their struggle. Once people begin to do that, you realize folks aren't as privileged as you think they are. They don't speak the language. They don't have that many advantages over you. You're just not taking advantage of the ones you have."

Duong Ly had a busy summer: An internship at the University of Pennsylvania on Asian health issues; a psychology class at a community college; trips to conferences in Houston and Boston to discuss his new activism; being photographed for a Philadelphia magazine story that labeled the boycotters "heroes." In between, he spent a little time working on his college essays and a lot of time on Facebook.

On Wednesday, he will walk through the battered metal doors of South Philadelphia High to start his senior year at what he hopes is a changed school.

"I'm really looking forward to it," he says.

Life & Style

CNMI athletes pose for a group photo after strutting their stuff at the end of the fashion show during the launch of *TAGA Sports* last Sept. 30.

TAGA Sports unveiled amid fanfare

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

To further the advancement of sports in the islands as well as promote the feats of local athletes, the folks behind the CNMI's first daily newspaper have launched the premiere issue of its new sports magazine last Sept. 30 at Fiesta Resort & Spa's Hibiscus Hall.

Dubbed *TAGA Sports*, the quarterly sports magazine is free and is published by *Saipan Tribune*.

TAGA Sports is unique and creative in that it highlights sports events and serves as an avenue to promote a healthy and active lifestyle.

The staff of *TAGA Sports* is fully committed to bringing the public a quality magazine stemmed from insightful and passionate minds dedicated to the growth of local sports.

The successful magazine launch was attended by the members of the local sports community and featured some of the CNMI's celebrated athletes who were all spiffed up for the sports fashion show.

"This sports magazine is but an extension of our company's dedication to covering sports in the region," said Mark Rabago, *TAGA Sports* associate editor.

Department of Public Health Secretary commended the management and staff of *TAGA Sports* during the launching Thursday night. "Living a physically active lifestyle is really one of the key ingredients for a more healthy life free of diseases such as diabetes," he said.

With the launch of the magazine, Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White said these are exciting times in the world of CNMI sports because it can now provide the kind of in-depth coverage that only a magazine can provide.

Eli Arago, senior vice president for Tan Holdings, thanked all the guests "Through team hard work and cooperation, you have my word that we will constantly strive to give you a high-quality magazine," he said.

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, who is involved with different sports himself, said he was inspired by the *Guam Sports Magazine* and emphasized that local athletes deserve to be recognized. "This magazine is here to stay," he assured.

Board member Jess Wabol of the Refaluwasch Golf Association revels with friends during the launching of *TAGA Sports* magazine.

The Joneses and the Johnsons enjoy the *TAGA Sports* magazine launch last Sept. 30 at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Department of Public Health secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez encourages guests to live a healthy and active lifestyle during the launch party of *TAGA Sports*.

Long time sports journalist and KSPN news director Bob Coldeen gestures as he addresses the guests of the magazine launch last Sept. 30.

The ladies of the Northern Marianas Badminton Federation pose for a group picture during the launching of the *TAGA Sports* magazine.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White delivers his speech for the *TAGA Sports* magazine launch at Fiesta Thursday night.

Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez and friends join in the celebration of the *TAGA Sports* magazine launch party.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Babauta, Tina Sablan, and Glen Hunter hold their copies of the inaugural issue of *TAGA Sports*.

Telford Cho does the thumbs up sign during his turn at the catwalk of the *TAGA Sports* fashion show.

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan commends senior vice president Eli Arago and the rest of the *TAGA Sports* staff for their hard work.

Sibling bowlers Raymond and Raphael Zapanta

Producer of 'The A-Team,' other shows dies

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP TELEVISION WRITER

Stephen J. Cannell, the voracious writer-producer of dozens of series that included TV favorites "The Rockford Files," "The A-Team" and "The Commish," has died at age 69.

Cannell passed away at his home in Pasadena, Calif., on Thursday night from complications associated with melanoma, his family said in a statement on Friday.

During three decades as an independent producer, he distinguished himself as a rangy, outgoing chap with a trim beard who was generally identified with action dramas full of squealing tires and tough guys trading punches.

But his range was greater than for which he was given credit. "Tenspeed and Brown Shoe" was a clever detective drama starring Ben Vereen and a then-unknown Jeff Goldblum in 1980. "Profit" was a shocking saga of a psycho businessman that was unforgettable to the few viewers who saw it: Fox pulled the plug after just four episodes in 1996. With "Wiseguy" (1987-90), Cannell chilled viewers with a film-noir descent into the underworld that predated "The Sopranos" by more than a decade.

"The Rockford Files," of course, became an Emmy-winning TV classic following the misadventures of its hapless ex-con private eye played by James Garner.

AP

In this Oct. 3, 2006 file photo, producer and writer Stephen J. Cannell talks about the concentration of media ownership in the hands of a few large corporations at a hearing held by the Federal Communications Commission in Los Angeles.

"People say, 'How can the guy who did "Wiseguy" do "The A-Team"?' I don't know," said Cannell in an interview with The Associated Press in 1993. "But I do know it's easier to think of me simply as the guy who wrote 'The A-Team.' So they do."

During his TV heyday, Cannell became familiar to viewers from the ID that followed each of his shows: He was seen in his office typing on his Selectric before blithely ripping a sheet of paper from the typewriter carriage, whereupon it morphed into the C-shaped logo of Cannell Entertainment Inc.

That was all the idea of his wife, Marcia, he said, and it "appealed to my sense of hooey. ... I'm a ham."

He was also an occasional actor, most recently with a recurring role on ABC-TV's series, "Castle."

A third-generation Californian, Cannell (rhymes with "channel") got into television writing scripts for "It Takes a Thief," "Ironside" and "Adam 12." It was a remarkable career choice for someone who had suffered since childhood from severe dyslexia (he became an advocate for children and adults with learning disabilities).

Cannell in recent years had focused his attention on writing books. His 16th novel, "The Prostitute's Ball," will be released this month.

"I never thought of myself as being a brilliant writer, and still don't," he said in the AP interview. "I'm a populist. With 'Rockford,' we were never trying to be important. And as thoroughly hated as it was by critics, I loved 'The A-Team.' I thought it was really cool."

He was a producer of the feature film updating "The A-Team," released earlier this year.

Cannell is survived by Marcia, his wife of 46 years, their three children, and three grandchildren.

Singer Bruno Mars facing cocaine charge in Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Bruno Mars, singer of the hit R&B song "Just the Way You Are," faces a felony cocaine charge stemming from his arrest after a performance at a Las Vegas nightclub last month.

The Clark County district attorney's office filed a criminal complaint Friday alleging the rising singer-songwriter had 2.6 grams of cocaine when he was arrested Sept. 19 after being detained by a hotel security guard.

Mars, whose real name is Peter Hernandez, is due in court Nov. 18 on the possession of a controlled substance charge. If convicted, he faces up to four years in prison and a $5,000 fine.

"Just the Way You Are" is No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

Hernandez, 24, was in Las Vegas for a performance at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino's Wasted Space nightclub.

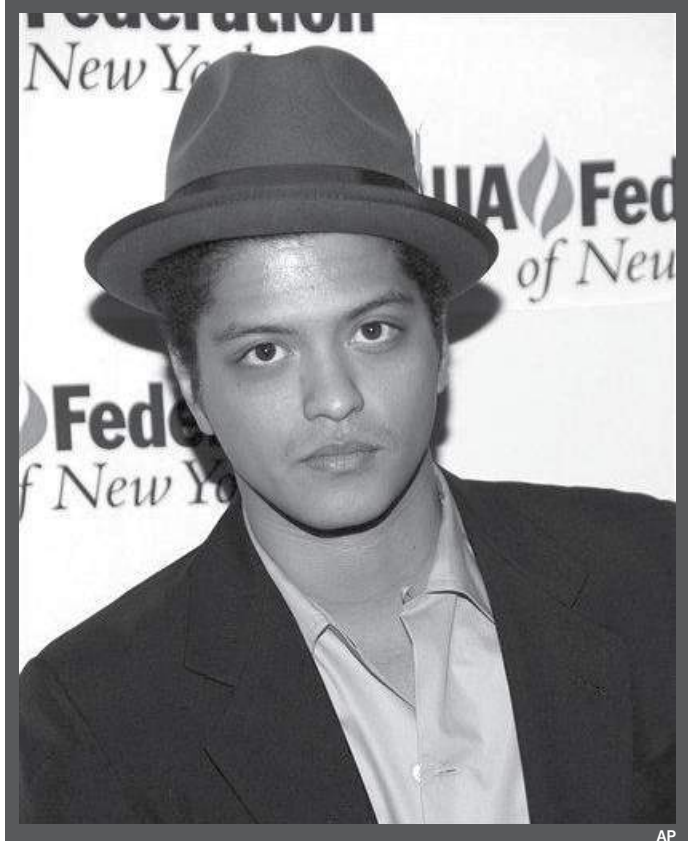
After the show, a bathroom attendant told police Hernandez was taking a long time in a stall with a bag of a white, powdered substance, according to the arrest report. The attendant alerted a security guard, who confronted Hernandez as he left the stall. The security guard said he asked Hernandez to hand over any narcotics he had, and Hernandez removed a bag of cocaine from his left-front jeans pocket, the arrest report said.

Hernandez was taken to a holding cell, where he was questioned by an arresting officer. When asked what was going on, Hernandez replied: "Can I speak to you honestly, sir?" He said he acted foolishly and had never used drugs before, the arrest report said.

Hernandez sang the hooks on B.o.B's "Nothin' on You" and Travie McCoy's "Billionaire"—both chart-toppers—and co-wrote and produced Cee-Lo Green's latest expletive-laden single.

His label, Elektra Records, released a brief statement Friday: "We congratulate Bruno Mars on his chart-topping success, and provide him with our full love and support."

Hernandez's debut album, "Doo-Wops & Hooligans," is scheduled for release Tuesday.



AP

In this June 16, 2010 file photo, Bruno Mars attends the UJA-Federation's Music Visionary of the Year Award luncheon at the Pierre Hotel in New York.

CNN's Sanchez fired after calling Stewart a bigot

NEW YORK (AP)—CNN fired news anchor Rick Sanchez on Friday, a day after he called Jon Stewart a bigot in a radio show interview where he also questioned whether Jews should be considered a minority.

Sanchez, who was born in Cuba and had worked at CNN since 2004, was host of the two-hour "Rick's List" on CNN's afternoon lineup. He did a prime-time version of that show in recent months, but that ended this week because the time slot is being filled by a new show featuring former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer and columnist Kathleen Parker.

Stewart had frequently poked fun of Sanchez on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show," most recently for saying on the air that his show had received a tweet from House Republican leader John Boehner. Stewart called it a case of "send a twit a tweet."

"He's upset that someone of my ilk is almost at his level," Sanchez said during a satellite radio interview with Pete Dominick. Details of the interview were posted on the Mediaite website Friday and quickly became a topic of conversation in the media world.

Sanchez said that Stewart is bigoted toward "everybody else that's not like him." He said Stewart "can't relate to what I grew up with," saying his family had been poor and he had seen prejudice directed at his father.

Sanchez dismisses it when Dominick points out that Stewart, who is Jewish, is also a minority.

"I'm telling you that everyone who runs CNN is a lot like Stewart, and a lot of people who run all the other networks are a lot like Stewart, and to imply that somehow they, the people in this country who are Jewish, are an oppressed minority?" Sanchez said, adding a sarcastic "yeah."

"I can't see someone not getting a job these days because they're Jewish," he said.

CNN issued a statement late Friday that said Sanchez "is no longer with the company." In it, the network also thanked Sanchez "for his years of service" and wished him well.

Sanchez did not immediately return an e-mail or call to his mobile phone seeking comment, though it was unclear whether the CNN-issued phone or e-mail address were still active.

Stewart had no comment on Sanchez's statements, a Comedy Central spokesman said.

Three times in the past few months Stewart had used a Sanchez clip for the mocking "moment of Zen" feature on "The Daily Show," including once where Sanchez mispronounced the world "annals" in a story about Vice President Joe Biden.

He also made fun of Sanchez questioning a reporter who was stationed in a California gay bar for a report on the court case there involving gay marriage and hadn't found anyone at the bar who opposed the idea.

Prince Charles in Indian capital for sporting meet

NEW DELHI (AP)—Britain's Prince Charles met with Indian President Pratibha Patil for informal talks Saturday, a day before the two are to jointly inaugurate the Commonwealth Games, ending a protocol tussle.

Charles and Patil, accompanied by their spouses, later strolled through the Mogul-style gardens of the pink sandstone presidential palace in the Indian capital.

With Queen Elizabeth II deciding not to attend the sporting event for the 71 countries and territories of the Commonwealth, the prince is to speak on his mother's behalf at Sunday's opening ceremony. However, many Indians felt Patil should be the one to officially inaugurate the games.

The prince's office, Clarence House, said in a statement that "There is no row."

Patil's office said it did not wish to comment.

The situation was resolved by the games organizing committee, which decided that the two would essentially share the honor.

Earlier Saturday, Charles met with prominent business leaders to promote business and trade ties.

CBS Radio's Arenstein arrested on marijuana charge

WASHINGTON (AP)—CBS Radio News correspondent Howard Arenstein has been arrested on marijuana charges in Washington.

D.C. police spokesman Lt. Nicholas Breul said Arenstein and his wife were arrested early Saturday and charged with possession with intent to distribute marijuana. Breul says vice units had received a complaint of marijuana growing in the couple's backyard. Police then obtained a search warrant for the home in northwest D.C.

Breul says officers found large, mature cannabis plants, standing more than 8 feet high. In addition, they found packaged marijuana inside the home.

According to the CBS News website, Arenstein serves as radio bureau manager for CBS News, Washington.

A CBS News spokeswoman declined to comment.

Could Harry Potter return? JK Rowling says maybe

CHICAGO (AP)—Could Harry Potter return to work more magic?

J.K. Rowling is leaving open the possibility. She told Oprah Winfrey in a taped interview airing Friday that she may someday write another novel in the popular series.

Rowling says the characters are still in her head and she "could definitely" write several new books about them. She says: "I'm not going to say I won't." For now, she feels she's moved on to a new phase of her writing.

More than 400 million copies of the books about the boy wizard have been sold. Rowling says fame brought extreme pressures, including paparazzi and reporters searching her trash.

She says it was "like being a Beatle" and there was a time she "was barely hanging by a thread."

Forbes magazine ranks Rowling as one Britain's richest women.

AP

In this photo taken Aug. 30, 2010 and provided by Harpo Productions, Inc., talk-show host Oprah Winfrey, right, is seen with "Harry Potter" author J. K. Rowling during a taping in Edinburgh, Scotland for an episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" to air nationally on Friday, Oct. 1, 2010.

Stamos wants to be heard at Mich. court hearing

MARQUETTE, Mich. (AP)—Actor John Stamos can't make it to federal court in Michigan's Upper Peninsula next week, but he still wants to be heard.

Federal prosecutors are asking a judge to allow them to read a statement from Stamos when two people are sentenced Friday for trying to extort $680,000 from him.

In July, Allison Coss and Scott Sippola were found guilty of conspiracy and using e-mail to threaten a person's reputation. They were accused of demanding money from Stamos in exchange for turning over embarrassing photos of him.

The FBI says there were no photos.

Stamos has known Coss for years after meeting her in Orlando, Fla., in 2004 when she was 17.

Stamos plays a dentist on Fox's hit musical "Glee."

In a Monday, Nov. 16, 2009 file photo, actor John Stamos is honored with star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles. AP

Clip: Meat made O'Donnell avoid being Hare Krishna

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—Delaware Republican Senate candidate Christine O'Donnell once told a TV interviewer that she tried several religions but skipped becoming a Hare Krishna because she didn't want to be vegetarian. Bill Maher aired the clip of that July 9, 1999, interview with O'Donnell on Friday night on his show "Real Time with Bill Maher." The short clip was from an interview on the comedian's former show "Politically Incorrect."

O'Donnell tells Maher that she had dabbled in "every other kind of religion," including witchcraft and Buddhism, before becoming a Christian.

With a laugh, she said: "I would have become a Hare Krishna, but I didn't want to become a vegetarian. And that is honestly the reason why, because I'm Italian and I love meatballs."

It's the third clip of O'Donnell that Maher has shown since she won her state's GOP primary last month.

Reached by phone, O'Donnell campaign spokesman Chris Merola had no immediate comment.

AP

Delaware Republican Senate candidate Christine O'Donnell addresses supporters during a rally, Friday, Oct. 1, 2010, at her new campaign headquarters in Wilmington, Del.

Comic strips turn pink for breast cancer awareness

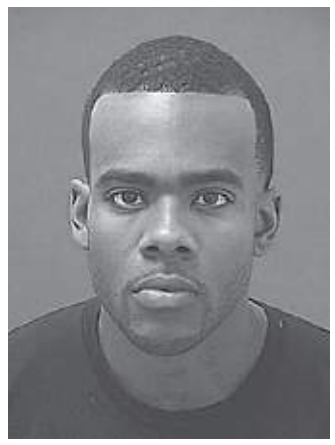
NEW YORK (AP)—The Sunday funnies will be in shades of pink ink on Oct. 10 in support of breast cancer awareness month.

King Features Syndicate Inc. said Sunday that more than 50 cartoonists will participate. Each comic strip will also feature a pink ribbon for breast cancer awareness with the tag line, "Cartoonists Care." The pink strips will run in newspapers nationwide and online.

Participating strips include Blondie, Zits, Dennis the Menace, Family Circus, Hagar the Horrible, Mother Goose & Grimm, Mallard Fillmore, Beetle Bailey, Dustin and The Pajama Diaries.

A gallery of the pink strips will be displayed on a ComicsGoPink website, where donations to seven breast cancer organizations will be accepted.

R&B singer Mario charged with assaulting mother



AP

This photo provided by the Baltimore Police Department shows Mario Barrett. R&B singer and former "Dancing with the Stars" contestant Mario has been charged with assaulting his mother at their Baltimore home.

BALTIMORE (AP)—R&B singer and former "Dancing with the Stars" contestant Mario has been charged with assaulting his mother at their Baltimore home.

Officers were called to an apartment building in the Fells Point neighborhood early Friday, where police say Shawntia Hardaway told officers her 24-year-old son, Mario Barrett, had pushed her.

According to charging documents, Hardaway said her head still hurt after Barrett pushed her into in a wall in a separate instance on Monday and she feared for her life. Officers found broken glass and a hole in a door in their apartment.

Barrett's attorney, William "Hassan" Murphy III, calls it "an unfortunate incident" between a loving son and a mother who has had drug problems. Barrett, who appeared in an MTV special in which he staged an intervention for his mother, was charged with second-degree assault and released on $50,000 bond.

Woman worries about a future with man avoiding her family

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my fiance, "Joe," for seven years. My problem is that he refuses invitations from my family to events and leaves me to go solo. Before the end of the year, there will be a baptism in which I am the godmother, as well as three weddings. Joe says he won't attend any of them.

He claims he's not interested in the baptism of our niece because he's not religious. He's declining the wedding invitations because he doesn't know the people well. He uses work as an excuse. Although he is required to work on weekends, it still infuriates me.

It's humiliating going to these family events alone, while people ask why Joe isn't there. I could give the "work" excuse, but I'm sure they'll find it hard to swallow that he can never get off.

I'm worried that when we're married my family won't show up because he pulls this. I have told him if he doesn't change I will need to reconsider our relationship. Giving me a few days out of the year shouldn't be a big deal. Am I right to be angry?

SOCIALLY OBLIGATED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR SOCIALLY OBLIGATED: After tolerating this for seven years, you are only now getting upset about it? Your fiance may feel awkward in social situations, which is why he avoids them. If the reason for your anger is you're afraid your family won't attend your special events, stop worrying. Because you are attending theirs, they will reciprocate. However, because your fiance is as socially withdrawn as he appears to be, they will never get to know him. What a shame.

DEAR ABBY: A young family member, "Missy," age 18, has been doing nude centerfolds for almost a year. Her mother signed the approval paperwork for her because Missy was still 17 at the time of the first photo shoot. Since then, there have been many more photos and nude videos.

Missy's grandparents practically raised her and don't know about what she's doing. The rest of the family is aware of it. Her mother says it's Missy's responsibility to tell her grandparents. The rest of the family would prefer the mother tell them. We all realize we have been part of this conspiracy.

When our parents find out and realize that everyone else knew, they will feel betrayed. I'm afraid this will tear the family apart.

Missy has shared all this with her high school friends and others, so it may just be a matter of time before the grandparents hear about it. Is there a way to keep the family from falling apart over this?

COVERED UP IN THE DEEP SOUTH

DEAR COVERED UP: Once more than one person knows a secret, it's no longer a secret. When the inevitable happens, keep the hysteria to a minimum. While her grandparents may have preferred that Missy get ahead by using her brains, this doesn't have to be the end of the world. Look at it this way: One person who posed for a nude centerfold is now a U.S. senator. And that's a fact.

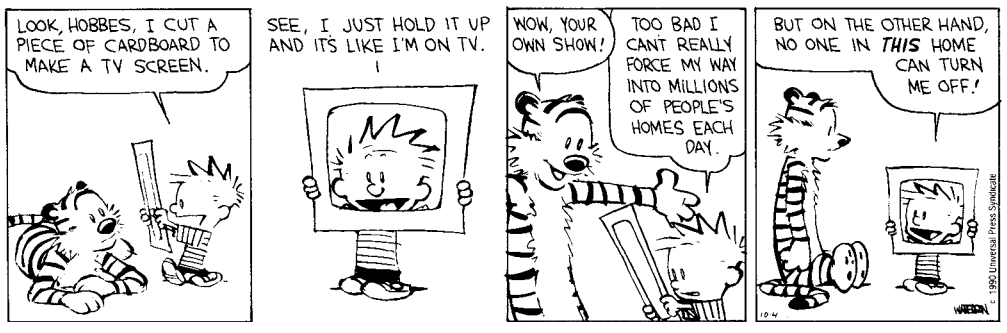
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


LOOK, HOBBES, I CUT A PIECE OF CARDBOARD TO MAKE A TV SCREEN.
SEE, I JUST HOLD IT UP AND IT'S LIKE I'M ON TV.
WOW, YOUR OWN SHOW!
TOO BAD I CAN'T REALLY FORCE MY WAY INTO MILLIONS OF PEOPLE'S HOMES EACH DAY.
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, NO ONE IN THIS HOME CAN TURN ME OFF!
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

WHAT'S NEW ON THE MENU TODAY, IRMA?
OH, A CATSUP STAIN, A COFFEE RING...
AND I'M NOT SURE WHAT THIS IS...
THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH, IRMA
MAYBE I CAN PICK IT OFF...
SCRATCH SCRATCH
www.garfield.com
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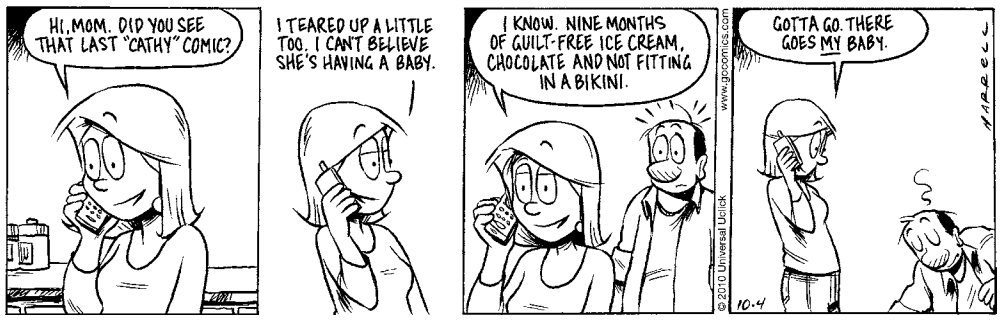
1-01 SJM PAWS

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HI, MOM. DID YOU SEE THAT LAST "CATHY" COMIC?
I TEARED UP A LITTLE TOO. I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S HAVING A BABY.
I KNOW. NINE MONTHS OF GUILT-FREE ICE CREAM, CHOCOLATE AND NOT FITTING IN A BIKINI.
GOTTA GO. THERE GOES MY BABY.
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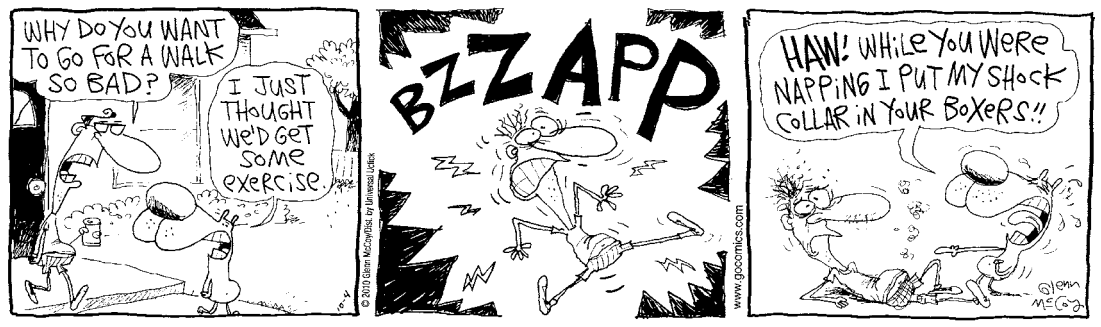
10-4

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WHY DO YOU WANT TO GO FOR A WALK SO BAD?
I JUST THOUGHT WE'D GET SOME EXERCISE.
BZZAPP
HAW! WHILE YOU WERE NAPPING I PUT MY SHOCK COLLAR IN YOUR BOXERS!!
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

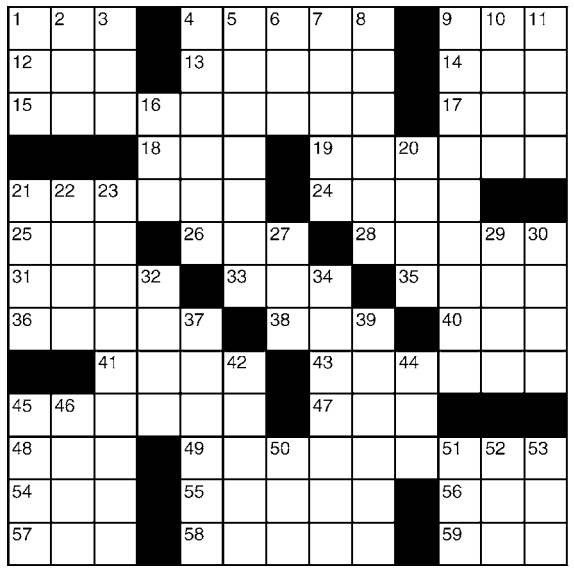
ACROSS
1 Spree
4 Tent peg
9 Hot tub
12 Eggs
13 "American Idol" alumnus Clay
14 Audiology subject
15 Piano style
17 Performance
18 Birthday statistic
19 Mickey Mouse's creator
21 Stuck
24 Sans siblings
25 Blackbird
26 Homer's interjection
28 Play your last card
31 Hostels
33 Watch chain
35 Ballerina's frill
36 Crazy folks
38 Deity
40 Apprehend
41 St. Louis NFL team
43 Chuckles
45 Tyrannical ruler
47 In need of repair
48 Ostrich's cousin
49 They're "worn" when handling something carefully
54 Parisian pal
55 Justice Kagan
56 Past
57 Unsavory rodent
58 Impressionist Edgar
59 Present

DOWN
1 Occupation
2 Actress Gardner
3 Talk on and on
4 Drooped
5 Fed up with
6 Alias (Abbr.)
7 Japanese form of fencing
8 Conclusion
9 "No Way Out" actress
10 Gait
11 Bohemian
16 Sweet potato
20 Coin aperture
21 "Monopoly" corner
22 Domini preceder
23 Diamonds or clubs, in bridge
27 Glutton
29 Great Salt Lake state
30 Vats
32 Break suddenly
34 Common lunch meat
37 Cured, as ham
39 Texas city
42 Steps over a fence
44 Japanese vegetable
45 Sweetie
46 Actress Thompson
50 B.A., for ex.
51 Moving vehicle
52 Id counterpart
53 Scatter seeds

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	S	H	■	A	C	T	S	■	M	A	M	A
M	A	O	■	T	H	A	W	■	E	M	I	R
O	R	R	■	H	E	R	A	■	S	I	D	E
K	I	N	G	O	F	P	R	U	S	S	I	A
■	■	■	E	M	S	■	T	R	Y	■	■	■
N	O	B	L	E	■	C	H	I	■	L	Y	E
T	H	U	S	■	B	O	Y	■	F	E	E	L
H	M	M	■	M	A	X	■	S	L	I	N	K
■	■	■	B	I	Z	■	S	H	E	■	■	■
Q	U	E	E	N	O	F	H	E	A	R	T	S
U	R	G	E	■	O	R	A	L	■	U	R	L
A	S	A	P	■	K	A	R	L	■	N	E	O
D	A	D	S	■	A	Y	E	S	■	G	E	T

Saturday's answer 10-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rachael Leigh Cook, 31; Alicia Silverstone, 34; Christoph Waltz, 54; Susan Sarandon, 64

Happy Birthday: Helping others will be satisfying. Let your creativity lead you down new avenues, opening up greater opportunities to make new friends and to explore professional proposals. Stop letting your inner turmoil hold you back. Discuss matters that are eating away at you so you can finally put them behind you. You call the shots for a change. Your numbers are 1, 8, 13, 20, 24, 29, 36

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Express your ideas or you may not be considered for an important position or included in an activity someone is planning. Proactive, productive and progressive should be the way you approach everything. Take charge. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Show your strengths, learn something new or do whatever it takes to improve your lifestyle. Now is the time to make changes to your personal life that can alter the way you approach both your professional and personal relationships. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let your emotions get the better of you, especially when dealing with family matters. Taking a responsible attitude will build up your confidence because of the favorable reaction you get from others. Improve your home environment. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Go out of your way to keep the peace at home. Concentrate on spending time with people you find inspiring or fun. Love is in the picture, so plan a romantic evening or socialize with other singles. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take care of your responsibilities quickly. A change of plans will leave you juggling a multitude of requests, placing you in a vulnerable position. Focus more on what's going on outside your home base. Being prepared will be the key to your success. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Keep what you find out a secret until you are ready to reveal your next move. Change is apparent but you must gauge the best time and way to follow through with your plans. Relationships must be handled with kid gloves. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't get all worked up over nothing. Showing your disapproval regarding something that you cannot change is a waste of time. Focus on what you can do to make your life better. Ask questions when in doubt. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't believe everything you hear, especially from the people you are closest to or live with. Someone may be withholding information in order to spare your feelings. Make changes that help you eliminate the stressful situations you are facing. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Showing others how serious you are about what needs to be done will be half the battle. Map out your plans and expect to be challenged. The information you gather will help you achieve your goals and allow you to show how valuable you can be. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't spend needlessly. Do your homework and don't sign any documents unless you are 100 percent sure. Put time aside for someone who can offer you valuable information. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Tie up loose ends. Take care of pending problems. There is plenty you can do to satisfy yourself and the ones you love without going into debt. A long distance romance is likely to cause you sorrow. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You may have difficulty deciphering what someone expects of you at work or at a financial, legal or governmental institution. Don't make a promise unless you are sure you can deliver and you understand exactly what's expected of you. Romance is in a high cycle. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a peacemaker and look for truth and justice. You are emotional, sensitive and passionate about your beliefs and your goals.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

4			5	3	9			1
	2	5				6	7	
	8						4	
			8		1			
	7	4				1	2	
			7		2			
	3						1	
	9	2				4	5	
8			2	5	6			9

Difficulty Level ★ 10/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

8	1	5	9	4	7	3	2	6
4	2	9	6	3	5	8	1	7
7	6	3	1	2	8	9	5	4
2	9	1	3	6	4	5	7	8
5	7	4	8	9	2	1	6	3
6	3	8	5	7	1	4	9	2
1	5	2	7	8	3	6	4	9
9	8	7	4	5	6	2	3	1
3	4	6	2	1	9	7	8	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/02

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST **Solution: 7 letters**

B	N	C	M	C	R	O	I	S	S	A	N	T	S	P
M	U	I	D	A	E	R	B	B	N	O	M	E	L	A
T	L	N	S	U	G	R	A	A	E	T	T	A	L	S
K	N	N	S	I	N	N	E	A	G	R	F	F	O	T
N	I	A	R	G	A	H	N	A	P	E	R	I	R	R
H	T	M	R	N	R	R	A	R	L	P	L	I	T	I
O	E	O	A	U	O	A	T	M	E	A	L	W	E	E
N	E	N	L	C	A	N	T	T	S	T	A	E	F	S
E	W	T	O	A	S	T	I	E	H	R	T	K	F	P
Y	S	R	A	E	P	N	S	O	M	G	T	A	U	R
O	E	E	D	E	L	I	T	E	N	R	I	C	B	I
G	C	T	S	A	F	K	A	E	R	B	U	L	S	N
U	I	T	R	E	A	T	S	U	G	A	R	O	A	K
R	U	U	A	S	A	L	T	E	A	S	F	R	G	L
T	J	B	B	S	G	G	E	E	T	I	Ⓑ	Ⓐ	Ⓚ	Ⓔ

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AMENDED REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES for the Saipan International Airport ARFF Training Facility Improvements AIP No. 3-69-0002-68/69 (Project No. CPA-SA-011-09)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management services for the Saipan International Airport ARFF Training Facility Improvements Project, AIP No. 3-69-0002-68/69, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

A. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

B. Specialized experience and technical competence in the type of work required and previous experience with projects similar in scope;

C. Key personnel's professional qualifications, experience and availability for the proposed services; their reputation and professional integrity and competence; and their knowledge of FAA regulations, policies and procedures;

D. Quality of projects previously undertaken and capability to complete projects without having major cost escalations or overruns;

E. Past performance on contracts including cost control, quality of work and current workload and demonstrated ability to meet schedules and deadlines;

F. Firms must have a valid CNMI Business License and the ability to perform the construction management activities in the CNMI.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications for each service offered no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, October 8, 2010.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. ~~Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.~~

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Edward M. Deleon Guerrero
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Acting Executive Director

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Europe eyes big Ryder Cup comeback as night falls

NEWPORT, Wales (AP)—The Americans stood behind the 18th green with smiles rarely seen on European soil as they watched yet another match go their way Saturday in the Ryder Cup.

They won the opening two sessions. They had a 6-4 lead over Europe. They grabbed lunch and headed back out to the golf course.

And then, it all changed.

Two hours later, Europe was leading all six matches when darkness stopped play at Celtic Manor. The Americans still had the lead. It just didn't feel that way. And with so much European blue on the scoreboard, it didn't even look that way.

"Momentum is key in these matches, and we haven't had any yet," European captain Colin Montgomerie said. "And it's been a superb session from the moment that we set off."

No points are awarded until a match is over, but it was looking good for Europe - especially with Lee Westwood and Luke Donald handing Tiger Woods one of his worst beatings ever in a Ryder Cup. They were 4 up over Woods and Steve Stricker through nine holes.

"I'd say it wasn't a bad thing that it got dark," U.S. captain Corey Pavin said.

There has never been a day at the Ryder Cup quite like this one.

About the only thing that resembled a typical Ryder Cup was 11 hours of golf at its highest level.

Sixteen players from both sides competed in parts of three matches. The opening fourballs session ended before lunch, followed by six alternate-shot matches, and play finally was stopped with six matches of both formats still going on. On two occasions, a fourballs match allowed an alternate-shot match to play through.

"I'm not sure what day it is," Zach Johnson said.

Heavy rain was in the forecast for Sunday, with 12 singles matches still to play after the third session is completed. Any stoppage in play would result in the first Monday finish in Ryder Cup history.

Woods and Stricker won their second straight match convincingly, Stewart Cink delivered a clutch putt and 21-year-old Rickie Fowler atoned for a bizarre blunder by making a birdie on the 18th hole for an unlikely half-point. Padraig Harrington won his first match for Europe in six years and Westwood looked like a player on the verge of going to No. 1 in the world.

But the final two hours changed everything.

Europe came roaring back behind Westwood, Donald and a host of others, taking the lead in every match and pulling some 40,000 fans who stood in the muck back into the game.

"Although none of these games finished, obviously we are in a very, very strong position," Montgomerie said. "It was a very important two hours of play, and we came through it with flying colors."

Europe had lost only four holes of the 39 that were played in the third session.

"We're just going to have to go back tonight, rest up and fire at them tomorrow," Pavin said. "We're down in all six matches. I have not seen points given for matches that are through four, five, six or seven holes. So we are going to go out and try to turn those around, and try to turn the momentum back in our favor."

Westwood and Donald, who have emerged as the European stars at Celtic Manor, might make that difficult.

They won the first two holes—Stricker missed the first green with a 9-iron in hand and Westwood holed a birdie putt on No. 2—then let the Americans self-destruct. Woods couldn't make a putt as they fell further behind, and the only positive note came on the ninth and final hole when Stricker made a 12-foot putt. Europe still was 4 up with nine holes to play in its foursomes match.

In the other alternate-shot match, Graeme McDowell and Rory McIlroy birdied the par-3 seventh to go 3 up, and McDowell will have a short birdie putt when they return.

The other four matches are fourballs. Europe has 1-up leads in three of them, with Miguel Angel Jimenez and Peter Hanson 2 up over rookies Bubba Watson and Jeff Overton.

Overton and Watson led a surprising charge for the Americans, trying to win on European soil for the first time since 1993. Overton made putts from everywhere as they closed out a 3-and-2 victory in the opening session, and they were poised to win their second match until Donald drilled his tee shot to 3 feet on the par-3 17th for a 2-and-1 victory.

Woods and Stricker looked unbeatable for most of the day. They were 4-0 last year in the Presidents Cup, and even Woods' unpredictable game didn't change much. He contributed enough clutch shots to stay in the match long enough for Stricker to take over. Stricker chipped in for birdie on the 12th to take the lead for good in a 2-up victory in fourballs.

"His stroke is so good," Woods said, referring to his 12th partner in the Ryder Cup. "It's fun to watch him. He's got that 'go-in' look."

In the second session, they steamrolled Jimenez and Hanson, 4 and 3, in what has been the shortest match.

Westwood and PGA champion Martin Kaymer looked as though they would go 2-0 in their matches until a stunning turnaround in alternate-shot got Fowler off the hook for his error on the fourth hole.

Jim Furyk pulled his tee shot into the muck, and Fowler figured his best relief was to drop the ball on the cart path. But he used the golf ball in his pocket—not the one Furyk had hit off the tee—which is a loss of hole.

They recovered at the end when Furyk hit a wedge to the back of the 18th green to 4 feet. After Westwood missed his birdie putt, Fowler made the birdie for a half-point that felt like a loss for Europe, which never trailed in the match.

Cink also came up big. In a wild alternate-shot with Matt Kuchar, in which only five holes were halved, the match was all square when the advantage went to Europe on the 17th. McDowell, the U.S. Open champion, hit his tee shot to inside 10 feet while Kuchar was well left of the flag. Cink knocked in his 30-foot birdie putt, slapping hands with Kuchar in the most animated celebration the Americans had all day.

McIlroy missed the birdie putt, then hit a wedge into the bunker on the 18th when his team needed a victory.

AP

Steve Stricker of the U.S. plays a shot on the second day of the 2010 Ryder Cup golf tournament at the Celtic Manor Resort in Newport, Wales, Saturday, Oct. 2, 2010.

Bryant to fulfill soccer 'dream' on London trip

LONDON (AP)—Kobe Bryant is fulfilling a lifelong sports dream in London, and it has nothing to do with basketball.

Bryant and his Los Angeles Lakers will open their preseason against the Minnesota Timberwolves at the O2 Arena on Monday in the first game of the NBA's annual European tour. But it's the opportunity to watch some Premier League soccer that has the finals MVP feeling like a child again.

Bryant will attend the match between London rivals Chelsea and Arsenal at Stamford Bridge on Sunday, one of the highlights of the English soccer calendar.

"When I was a kid growing up in Italy, my dream was—I used to go to Serie A (Italian league) games all the time, but I wanted to go watch a Premier game," Bryant said after the Lakers' finished practice Saturday. "And my mom would never let me go. I wanted to go watch Liverpool and stuff like that, and she was like 'No, you're not going.' So now to finally have an opportunity some 20 years later to go watch a Premier game is incredible."

Many European basketball fans feel the same way about the chance to watch Bryant and the Lakers—by far the most high-profile team to embark on the overseas tour. However, the performance may not be of the same caliber as watching the team that won its second straight NBA title in July.

Bryant is still recovering from arthroscopic surgery on his right knee in the offseason, center Andrew Bynum is injured and the rest of the team is shaking off the rust from the offseason.

"We're a little bit shy of our big guns, so to speak," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "But we'll have plenty of players to showcase."

Center Pau Gasol cautioned that "it's the first game of the preseason, so it won't be the most attractive game." But, he added, since the Lakers are still the Lakers, "you always have to play like the champs."

Bryant's knee didn't show any adverse effects from the trans-Atlantic flight. He completed the full practice session at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre in south London.

In only his second scrimmage since training camp began, he looked sharp at times. Bryant drained a 3-pointer and fade-away jumper on back-to back possessions during a fullcourt game.

"It felt more solid than it did the last time, so it's a good development for me," Bryant said. "No pain, just a little weak still, obviously, from the surgery."

Jackson plans to give Bryant limited minutes in the two European games—the Lakers play Barcelona in Spain on Thursday—but enough time to make sure the fans don't leave disappointed.

"You always want to play well, and give them something to remember," Bryant said. "So hopefully, I can perform."

Meanwhile, the status of the Timberwolves is unknown. The team won just 15 games last season, which led to a complete overhaul of the roster that returns only five players.

"We don't know what we're going to get out of these guys," Minnesota coach Kurt Rambis said. "They're all so new and they're all trying to learn how to play with each other and figure each other out."

Being abroad together should help speed that process.

"Hopefully, this turns into a tremendous bonding experience," said Rambis, a former assistant to Jackson with the Lakers. "Obviously, the Lakers are the pinnacle of the basketball world, so our young guys get to compete against great athletes."

Both teams arrived in London on Friday and had a practice session. By Saturday, most of the players seemed to have adjusted to the time difference.

"This is something they should know how to do in their sleep," Jackson said.

Minnesota's Michael Beasley, the former Miami Heat forward who is one of the newcomers on the team, seemed a bit groggy.

"Oh man. I couldn't sleep last night," a tired-looking Beasley said ahead of practice. "The time difference took a toll on me. But I'm glad it got me early. I'm going to sleep right after practice."

Beasley promised to be more alert on Monday night.

"I want to play this game like it's the last game of the season," Beasley said. "I don't want to come here and just play and lose just because we're supposed to lose because they're the Lakers.

"I want to give them a fight, I want to challenge them. I want to send a message to the league that the Timberwolves are here."

Yankees, Rays tied with one game to go

BOSTON (AP)— The New York Yankees must win away at arch rival Boston on Sunday if they are to have a chance of winning the American League East division, after a split doubleheader between the teams on Saturday.

New York won the opener 6-5 but lost the night game 7-6 to the Red Sox, leaving the Yankees on a 95-66 record and tied with Tampa Bay with one game left to play.

New York must win at Boston and rely on the Rays losing at lowly Kansas City, otherwise Tampa Bay will take the AL East title by virtue of having won 10 of 18 games against the Yankees this season.

The division winner will get home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. The team left with the wild card opens the playoffs Wednesday in Minnesota. The division winner hosts Texas.

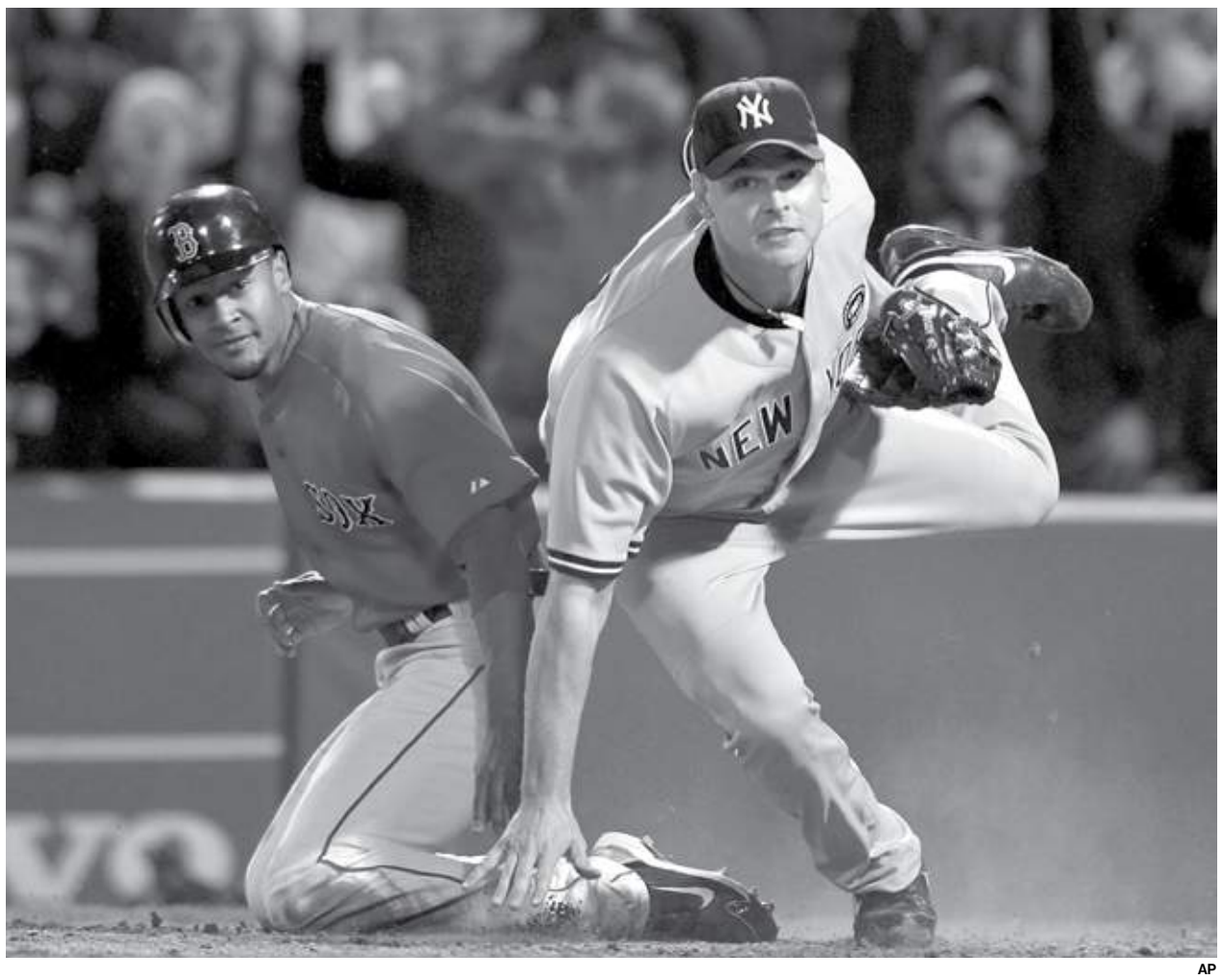
In the opening game of the doubleheader, New York's Brett Gardner raced home on an error in the 10th inning to give the visitors victory.

New York's Phil Hughes (18-8) struck out two batters in a perfect ninth in his second relief outing of the year, keeping the score tied at 5-5. Mariano Rivera pitched the 10th for his 33rd save.

Boston pitcher Jonathan Papelbon (5-7) started the 10th by walking Gardner, who took second on a sacrifice. Derek Jeter hit a check-swing roller just past the pitcher's reach, and second baseman Bill Hall tried to field it with his bare hand, but the ball got past him and Gardner scored.

In the night game, Boston's Eric Patterson singled home the winning run in the 10th inning. Bill Hall led off the inning with a double against Ivan Nova (1-2) and went to third on a sacrifice.

Boston's Robert Manuel (1-0) got the win with two shutout innings.



AP

Boston Red Sox's Eric Patterson, left, is safe at home plate after a wild pitch as New York Yankees' Kerry Wood watches the throw from catcher Jorge Posada that went wide in the eighth inning of the first game of a baseball doubleheader, Saturday, Oct. 2, 2010, in Boston.

Twins 5, Blue Jays 4

In Minneapolis, Alexi Casilla hit a two-out, two-run single in the ninth inning to lift Minnesota over Toronto.

Delmon Young led off the Twins ninth with a double against closer Kevin Gregg (2-6). Gregg retired two batters before issuing two walks.

With the bases loaded, Casilla singled up the middle on a full-count pitch, scoring two pinch-runners.

It was Gregg's sixth blown save of the season. Minnesota's Matt Capps (2-0) earned the win with a scoreless ninth. Casilla also had a two-run single in the fifth.

Rangers 6, Angels 2

In Arlington, Texas, Josh Hamilton hit his first homer in more than a month and had three RBIs as Texas tuned up for the playoffs with a win over Los Angeles.

Hamilton's two-run drive off Ervin Santana (17-10) was his 32nd homer of the season, matching a career high and giving the AL West champions a 3-2 lead.

Hamilton, who leads the majors with a .360 batting average, went 2 for 4 as the designated hitter in his second game back after missing 24 with two broken ribs. He added a sacrifice fly in a three-run seventh.

The first five Angels reached base against C.J. Wilson (15-8), who settled down to retire 15 of the next 16 hitters. Wilson is slated to start Game 2 of the playoffs.

The Angels (79-82) are assured their first losing season since 2003.

Rays 4, Royals 0

In Kansas City, Matt Joyce hit a two-run triple as Tampa Bay beat Kansas City to draw level with New York.

The Rays, getting their rotation in shape for the postseason, used eight pitchers. Chad Qualls (2-0) threw only two pitches but took the win, inducing a double-play in the third.

Carl Crawford hit his career-best 19th home run off Royals starter Kyle Davies (8-12).

Athletics 5, Mariners 3

In Seattle, Mark Ellis and Jack Cust hit back-to-back homers to lead Oakland over Seattle, handing the Mariners their 100th loss of the season.

The A's have outhomered the Mariners 7-1 in the first three games of the four-game set.

Oakland's Brett Anderson (7-6) allowed two runs in seven innings for the win.

Seattle's David Pauley (4-9) retired his first 11 batters but gave up all three Oakland homers.

White Sox 6, Indians 2, 6 innings

In Chicago, Mark Buehrle earned his first win in six weeks as Chicago beat Cleveland in a game shortened to six innings by rain.

Buehrle (13-13) allowed six hits in his 27th career complete game and third this season. He was 0-4 in his previous seven starts.

Chicago's Brent Lillibridge had a two-run single off Carlos Carrasco (2-2) in the fourth and Dayan Viciedo homered for the White Sox.

Orioles 2, Tigers 1

In Baltimore, Brian Matusz struck out a career-high nine to win his sixth consecutive decision, steering Baltimore past Detroit.

Matusz (10-12) allowed one run and one walk in six innings.

Nick Markakis homered for the Orioles who have won four straight.

Detroit has lost six straight and must win Sunday's season finale to avoid finishing under .500.

Tigers starter Armando Galarraga (4-9), who lost a fourth straight decision, yielded two runs over eight innings.

Phillies 7, Braves 0

In Atlanta, the Atlanta Braves fell into a tie for the National League wild-card spot with just one game left in the regular season, after losing to the Philadelphia Phillies.

The Braves' hopes of advancing to the postseason in veteran manager Bobby Cox's final season will be on the line against the Phillies on Sunday. Atlanta ace Tim Hudson is scheduled to face Cole Hamels, who is scheduled to pitch only two innings.

Atlanta can earn its first postseason berth since 2005 with a victory and a San Diego loss at San Francisco.

Philadelphia reliever Antonio Bastardo (2-0) took the win for the NL East champions, who have already secured home-field advantage throughout the playoffs.

The game followed a tribute to Cox attended by about 70 former players and coaches — and an Atlanta-record crowd of 54,296.

Atlanta third baseman Brooks Conrad's throwing error helped the Phillies snap a scoreless tie with four runs in the seventh. It was the second straight day a throwing error by Conrad helped the Phillies take the lead.

Jonny Venters (4-4) took the loss.

Padres 4, Giants 2

In San Francisco, victory by San Diego left two NL playoff races up for grabs heading into the last game of the season.

As well as pulling level with Atlanta in the wild-card race, the Padres also closed within a game of the Giants for the NL West lead.

San Diego closer Heath Bell got San Francisco's Jose Guillen to ground into a game-ending double play with runners at the corners. Bell held on for his 47th save in 50 chances. He is tied for the major league lead with Giants closer Brian Wilson.

Padres starter Tim Stauffer (6-5) allowed three hits in 6 1-3 innings to take the win.

San Francisco starter Barry Zito (9-14) gave up consecutive bases-loaded walks in the first and was booed off after a season-low three innings.

Giants manager Bruce Bochy was ejected after the sixth for arguing when Buster Posey was called out on strikes.

San Diego is 7-1 this year at San Francisco.

Cardinals 1, Rockies 0, 11 innings

In St. Louis, Colorado's Ubaldo Jimenez came up short in his bid to reach the 20-win mark despite pitching eight scoreless innings in the Rockies' loss at St. Louis.

Jimenez exited his third attempt at 20 win, but saw Pedro Feliz score the winning run from second when right fielder Ryan Spilborghs bobbled the ball on Matt Holliday's single off Franklin Morales (0-4), giving the Cardinals their fourth straight victory.

The Rockies lost for the 12th time in 13 games. Colorado was one game out of first in the NL West before the skid.

Jimenez did set a franchise record with 214 strikeouts for the season, four more than Pedro Astacio in 1999.

Cardinals reliever Jason Motte (4-2) had two strikeouts in a scoreless 11th.

Reds 7, Brewers 4

In Cincinnati, the hosts beat Milwaukee to reach 90 wins for the season for the first time in 11 years.

Jay Bruce extended his final-week surge with a two-run shot and a solo homer that was reviewed for possible fan interference.

The Reds, despite resting players to get ready for the playoffs, broke the game open off Todd Coffey (2-4) in the seventh.

Cincinnati's Logan Ondrusek (5-0) took the win, escaping a threat in the seventh after Milwaukee tied it at 4-4.

The Reds will open the playoffs on the road next week, against either Philadelphia or the NL West champion.

Cubs 8, Astros 3

In Houston, Aramis Ramirez hit his first grand slam in more than two years to power Chicago past Houston.

The Cubs weres leading 4-0 before Ramirez's slam stretched the lead and chased Astros starter J.A. Happ in the fourth. Happ (6-4) allowed a season-worst eight hits and walked five in three-plus innings.

Marlon Byrd drove in three runs for Chicago, while starter Carlos Zambrano (11-6) pitched 6 1-3 innings for the Cubs, who have won five of six.

Mets 7, Nationals 2

In New York, the hosts included seven rookies in their lineup yet still beat Washington.

New York's David Wright hit a three-run homer off Tyler Clippard (11-8) in the seventh inning.

The Mets used six relievers, with Ryota Igarashi (1-1) taking the win.

Dodgers 3, Diamondbacks 2

In Los Angeles, Chad Billingsley took a shutout into the eighth inning to guide Los Angeles past Arizona.

Billingsley (12-11) struck out nine and held the Diamondbacks hitless until the sixth.

Matt Kemp homered for his fourth straight game as the Dodges edged home under the guidance of utilityman Jamey Carroll, who was entrusted with managing the team by outgoing boss Joe Torre.

Rookie Kenley Jansen struck out three in the ninth for his fourth save.

Arizona's Joe Saunders (3-7) gave up 10 hits over seven innings.

Marlins 2, Pirates 0

In Miami, fill-in starter Jorge Sosa and four relievers combined on a shutout, pitching Florida past road-weary Pittsburgh.

The Pirates dropped to 17-63 away from home and must win their season finale Sunday to avoid matching the 1963 New York Mets for the worst road record in a 162-game season. Pittsburgh has the worst overall mark in the majors at 57-104.

Sosa, typically a reliever, made his second start of the season and went four innings in place of Alex Sanabia, who was scratched with an elbow injury.

Brian Sanches (2-2) worked two innings for the win and closer Clay Hensley got the final strike out with runners on second and third.

Pirates starter Charlie Morton (2-12) allowed only one walk and two runs in six innings, while stiking out nine, yet fell to 0-8 in 11 road starts.

Dartsmen, Yakau lead in SEDA league

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Buddies Bar & Grill's Flying Dartsmen and Jonny's Yakau topped the leaderboards in the respective A and Ladies divisions, respectively after last Monday's Saipan Electronic Dart Association games.

In the eight-team A Division, the Dartsmen, with 92 wins, 61 losses and an even 60 percent winning rate, hold a four-game margin over the second seated Naked Fish Boyz (88W-65L), while Buddies' Locals and Primos are both tied for third with 82 wins and 71 losses. Notables include a 160 High-In by D'Pirates Bar & Grill's CK-Destroyers' Jeff Barit and a 155 High-Out by the Flying Dartsmen's Julian Camacho.

In the eight-team Ladies League, Yakau, with 89 wins, 46 losses, lead DPBG Strikers (86W-49L) by three games. DPBG's Mama's Snipers are in third with 77 wins and 58 losses. Notables include a 160 High-In by Polly Omechelang of USSP's Kmal Sechelim and a 124 Hihh-Out by the Striker's Rufina Guevarra.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Member of Ladies league leader Jonny's Yakau, poses for a photo after edging out Mama's Snipers, 8-7, during last Monday's SEDA games.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the Naked Fish Boyz pose for a photo in their home bar after Monday's, 10-7 victory over the CK-Destroyers in Division A.

A DIVISION

Naked Fish Boyz 10, CK-Destroyers 7

Naked Fish Boyz won three of the four cricket matches for an early lead. Then both teams won a game of partners 501, a pair of sniper matches, a game of wild cricket and a pair of singles 301 matches. The Naked Fish Boyz added the final team 1001 cherry game to their total. Naked Fish's Peter Deleon Guerrero was 5-for-6 in his matches and teammate Cedric Palacios went 5-for-5

Flying Dartsmen 10, Primos 7

Flying Dartsmen was 3-for-4 in the cricket matches before both teams won a partners 501 games, a pair of sniper matches and a game of wild cricket. The Dartsmen went on to win three of the four singles 301 games for the automatic victory, while Charlie's Primos took the final team 1001 cherry match.

Right There! 11, Vargas Snipers 6

Right There! swept all four cricket matches Then Charlie's Vargas Snipers swept both partners 501 games and both teams won a pair of sniper matches. Right There! came alive again and swept both wild cricket games before winning three of four singles 301 matches, while Vargas Snipers took the final team 1001 cherry contest.

Locals 13, Bud Brothers 4

The Locals won three of the four cricket matches for an early lead. Then both teams won a partners 501 game before the Locals swept all four sniper matches. The Locals added a couple of singles 301 games and the final team 1001 cherry match to the total score.

LADIES DIVISION

Yakau 8, Mama's Snipers 7

After both teams won a pair of singles 301 matches, Yakau swept both wild cricket games and both partners 501 to pull ahead. They sealed the automatic victory after both teams won a pair of cricket matches.

Tipiyeew 8, Pink Panthers 7

In a battle between sister teams, Tipiyeew swept all four singles 301 games for the early advantage. The Pink Panthers swept both partners 501 contests before both teams won a wild cricket game. Tipiyeew clinched the automatic victory after winning three of the four cricket matches.

Kmal Sechelim 9, Strikers 6

After both teams won a pair of singles 301 matches, the Strikers swept both wild cricket games. Kmal Sechelim bit back, winning both partners 501, three of the four cricket matches and secured the automatic victory after winning a partners baseball game.

Lady Gagas 11, Megatouch 4

The Lady Gagas swept all four singles 301 matches and the two wild cricket games to jump way out in front. Then after both teams won a partners 501 contest, the Lady Gagas won three of the four cricket matches to slam the door on Sande's Megatouch.

CNMI

From Page 28

could submit a credible bid and we will have a good chance for success. We will going to do our level best to make this happen," White said.

If the 2017 Mini Games is awarded to the CNMI, this will be so far the biggest multi-sports event that the Commonwealth will be hosting.

In the last five years, the CNMI had hosted the 6th Micronesian Games, 2008 Oceania Area Championship and Grand Prix, and 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament.

REPEAT

From Page 28

The 30-km race started at 6:30am the American Memorial Park with runners greeted by a good weather. It was cruise control in the road portion of the race. However, when participants entered the trail part, passing through the coffee plantations and Wireless Ridge, the real ordeal began, as the muddy and slippery course slowed them down. It rained for a few days before last Saturday's race, making the course a brutal one for runners.

"It was tougher running this year's course than last year. It was not because it was longer, but because the course was so wet and muddy, we really have to be careful when passing through it," said Oshima-Berger, who started the race with her race suit spotless, but had traces of mud all over her body when the run ended.

Fujio couldn't agree more with Oshima-Berger, saying last weekend's race was the toughest since he joined the annual event in 2008.

"Even though it was a race, I have to keep reminding myself not to rush things. I have to be very careful, as one mistake could lead to an accident," Fujio said.

Nicknamed, the "Japanese Express," Fujio reached the finish line more than 30 minutes ahead of second placer Caesar Danao, who timed in at 3:28:47. Completing the Top 3 was newcomer and Kagman High School teacher Michael Towle, who clocked in at 3:32:19,

In the women's division, Rebecca Reed finished second with a time of 4:09:37, while Natasha Kuckuck placed third after logging 4:12:14.

Kabiriel, Imaya top 10k race

In the 10-km race, Kabiriel was happy he opted for the shorter race.

"It was pretty tough out there. It was just 10-km race, but it seemed longer, as we have to do several climbs. We have to walk along the trails and be very careful with the hanging branches from trees. Safety first before anything else," Kabiriel said.

Kabiriel timed in at 1:00:26, passing his time (1:30:11) in January. Guam's Joe Taitano came in at second with a time of 1:06:27, followed by Austin Kosam (1:09:45), Chang Wang Jang (1:14:34), Yosh Suzuki (1:18:45), and Vinnie Inos (1:19:51).

Suzuki started the race with his shoes on, but after going through the muddy course, he made it to the finish line barefoot, holding his broken pair of shoes.

Akane Imaya reached the finish line at the 1:20:55 mark to beat Amanda Kloeppel (1:23:01) and Wantha Aldrich (1:26:28) for the women's division title.

SUBLEMENTE

From Page 28

"I had to carry my bike midway through the Autobahn trail, as it was heavily covered with mud. It was a tough race, as the trails were muddy and slippery," said Sublemente, who topped the mountain bike race after clocking in at 46 minutes and 10 seconds.

About five minutes later, Kieran Daly crossed the finish line with his race shirt still clean and his wheels in perfect condition. Daly joined the road race and ruled the event after timing in at 50:59.

Daly and the 24 other participants in the road race category had a relatively hustle-free ride along Banzai and Suicide cliffs, Bird Island, and back to Paupau Beach.

In contrast, Sublemente and 22 other bikers in the mountain bike division, struggled and crashed along Autobahn and Kimikaze trails. One rider crashed twice with the first one happening when a boonie dog ran after him.

"I was happy to see a good weather this morning, but once I hit the trails, I told myself I should have joined the road race. But, I am still thankful, I didn't crash," Sublemente said.

Sublemente completed the mountain bike race more than a minute ahead of runner-up Arnel Cruz, who submitted 47:26. Russ Quinn came in third at 47:31.

In the women's division, Jackie Van Dam finished the race in an hour to beat Kimiko Hasegawa (1:03:45) and Kanae Quinn (1:05:167).

In the road race division, Daly's winning time was less than a minute ahead of Lewie Tenoroio's 51:46. Joe Ngiraibuuch completed the Top 3 with his time of 53:32.

Melanie Daly was the lone female rider in the road race and timed in at 1:29:05. She could have posted a better time if not for flat tires. Three U12 riders—Cole Chambers, Logan Mister, and Alexander Batemen, joined the road race and managed to finish the event in less than two hours.

Meanwhile, Mieko Carey thanked bikers and her sponsors for supporting the fundraiser. Proceeds from the event will be used for her trip to Hawaii this month for the 2010 XTERRA World Championship.

"Thank you very much to the bikers and to the participants in the kids race and their parents. Thank you, too to IT&E, PIC, Brabu, Gold's Gym, Salomon, Big Deeper and MVA for donating raffle prizes," Carey said.

MASTERS

From Page 28

players' proof of age eligibility. Registration fee is payable on installment basis with the initial payment pegged at $200 and should be paid on or before Oct. 14. The remaining $150 must be paid in the second week of the league.

Only players in above 40 and 45 age groups will be allowed to play in the league. Players must submit waiver forms and pay the non-refundable $5 membership fee. Head coaches and assistant coaches must also be MBFNMI registered members.

Games are still scheduled at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, but MBFNMI chair Ray Lizama in previous interviews said they will be looking for other venues if the gym will remain close.

Matches in the masters league will be played every Saturday and Sunday only. Format will be single round-robin in the regular season and only the Top 8 teams will advance to the playoffs

The Masters league primarily endorses FIBA rules, with a few modified ground rules that will be discussed in detail at the October 14 meeting. Trophy categories are also still being determined by the MBFNMI board and will be confirmed before the official kickoff date.

For more information, contact MBFNMI via e-mail at masters-basketball_670@yahoo.com.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-New York	95	66	.590	—
z-Tampa Bay	95	66	.590	—
Boston	88	73	.547	7
Toronto	84	77	.522	11
Baltimore	66	95	.410	29

Central Division

x-Minnesota	94	67	.584	—
Chicago	87	74	.540	7
Detroit	80	81	.497	14
Cleveland	69	92	.429	25
Kansas City	67	94	.416	27

West Division

x-Texas	90	71	.559	—
Oakland	80	81	.497	10
Los Angeles	79	82	.491	11
Seattle	61	100	.379	29

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

x-Philadelphia	97	64	.602	—
Atlanta	90	71	.559	7
Florida	79	82	.491	18
New York	79	82	.491	18
Washington	68	93	.422	29

Central Division

x-Cincinnati	90	71	.559	—
St. Louis	85	76	.528	5
Milwaukee	77	84	.478	13
Chicago	75	86	.466	15
Houston	75	86	.466	15
Pittsburgh	57	104	.354	33

West Division

San Francisco	91	70	.565	—
San Diego	90	71	.559	1
Colorado	83	78	.516	8
Los Angeles	79	82	.491	12
Arizona	65	96	.404	26

Yesterday's Games

St. Louis 1, Colorado 0, 11 innings
Cincinnati 7, Milwaukee 4
N.Y. Mets 7, Washington 2
Philadelphia 7, Atlanta 0
San Diego 4, San Francisco 2
Chicago Cubs 8, Houston 3
Florida 2, Pittsburgh 0
L.A. Dodgers 3, Arizona 2
Minnesota 5, Toronto 4
N.Y. Yankees 6, Boston 5, 10 innings, 1st game
Boston 7, N.Y. Yankees 6, 10 innings, 2nd game
Chicago White Sox 6, Cleveland 2 innings
Baltimore 2, Detroit 1
Tampa Bay 4, Kansas City 0
Texas 6, L.A. Angels 2
Oakland 5, Seattle 3

z-clinched playoff berth
x-clinched division

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Oleai Sports Complex closure spoils week

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The week started good with the opening of a youth football league, increased in participation of a fun run, and the crowning of the champion teams in a local caging and softball event. However, it ended on a bit of bad note when the Oleai Sports Complex was closed due to the government shutdown.

The main sports hub in the CNMI was closed for public use last Friday, stalling the Rotary U19 and U15 leagues, preventing runners from using the track oval, prompting the games in the U18 division of the NMIFA youth fall league to be moved to the CPA Field, and forcing people using the weight room to look for other venues to do their workout routine.

Before the facility was padlocked, NMIFA still managed to hold two games at the Oleai field last Saturday. Last Sunday, the Emon Lodge caging was also able to have its final game at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium with Mobil beating Armatech to clinch the championship.

The Rotary league had its U19 games played at the Ada gym, too, from Monday to Thursday before the Friday shutdown.

A few days before the shutdown, a bill was introduced to allow NMASA to manage the Oleai Sports Complex. The bill introduced by Rep. Tebuteb will now have to wait for public comments and review from both houses.

Only indoor activities and other sports events being played in government-ran facilities are affected by the shutdown.

Fortunately for the 10th SIS 5K Fun Run, the annual event was held in the northern portion of the island with 175 participants running from Banzai Cliff to Cowtown and back. This year's fundraiser drew 60 more runners than last year's race.

The UFO caging was not as lucky as the SIS Fun Run, as the league completed only one playoff game last week due to rain.

Only VisMinda-Kids Cove managed to enter the win column at the start of the playoffs after defeating Laguna-Moonlight in the masters division. MAFEA-Ali'i Konflikt led Laguna-Soul Jazz midway in the fourth quarter of their open division game when rained stalled the match. Thursday and Saturday matches were also rained-out.

In softball, Mother Nature was cooperative with the 2010 PCA/Docomo Pacific Fundraising Softball Tournament, as the championship round at the Dandan Elementary School was completed with SaiPal beating Peleliu.

In swimming, Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan announced the selection of Kai Staal as representative of the club in the 2010 FINA/ARENA Swimming World Cup in Tokyo, Japan.

WALTER SUTHERLAND
Sparks' point man Ichitaro Faisao goes for a left handed layup to trick his defender during their game against Rollers C in Rotary caging last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Steve Pixley nears the finish line of the 10th Annual SIS 5K Fun Run.

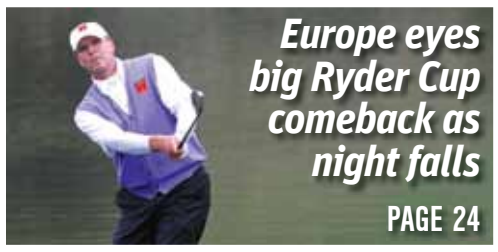
ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mobil's Jack Lizama hustles for the loose ball during their title game against Armatech in the Emon Lodge caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A notice of closure was posted in one of the gates at the Oleai Sports Complex, which was padlocked last Friday due to the government shutdown.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Staal will be competing in the 2010 FINA/ARENA Swimming World Cup in Tokyo, Japan, this month.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Players of MP United and Tan Holdings girls U14 teams in action during a game at the San Antonio Elementary School Field last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A SaiPal batter watches a low ball during their title game against Peleliu in the 2010 PCA/Docomo Pacific Fundraising Tournament at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.



Europe eyes big Ryder Cup comeback as night falls

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Sports

Oleai Sports Complex closure spoils week

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CNMI plans to bid for 2017 Mini Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association is planning to bring the 2017 Pacific Mini Games to the Commonwealth.

NMASA president Michael White disclosed this grand plan during the launching of the first sports magazine in the CNMI—*TAGA Sports*—last Thursday night at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, saying the first move had been made to push for the Mini Games hosting bid.

"The governor has authorized us to explore the possibility of submitting a bid for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games," White told officials and members of the sports and business communities who attended the launching party last week.

"The next step is for the government to fix time and date of meeting for the key players in the bidding process," White added.

The bid is due in March next year during the Pacific Games Council meeting. Besides the CNMI, Vanuatu is also expected to submit a bid to host the 10th edition of the quadrennial meet.

CLARISSA DAVID
NMASA president Michael White discloses the plan for submitting a bid to host the 2017 Mini Games during the launching of the TAGA Sports last Thursday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

"It [getting the hosting rights for the Pacific Games] will be a source of pride for us," said White, adding the multi-sports competition will pump in funds to the struggling economy of the Commonwealth.

He said when the Mini Games takes place here, this will mean more than 2,000 athletes, and their families and friends will visit the CNMI for more than a week. The NMASA president translated this visit to about $12 million funds.

The Pacific Games Council has 22 member-nations sending athletes and officials to the various competitions sanctioned by the council and usually more than 20 events are lined up in regional meets.

"Everyone should be on board. I am very confident we

See CNMI on Page 26

Sublemente, Daly top Mieko race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

No expert is needed to determine whether bikers joined the road or the mountain bike course in yesterday's Mieko XTERRA Fundraising Race. A quick look at the finishers will be enough.

Butch Sublemente made it to the finish line first at Paupau beach with his then neatly pressed white race shirt and cycling shorts covered with mud. His wheels also had thick traces of mud.

See SUBLEMENTE on Page 26

Repeat winners in extended Coffee Trail

Mamiko Oshima-Berger, left, and Miyachi Fujio pose at the Marianas Coffee Trail Run start/finish line banner after completing the grueling 30-kilometer race last Saturday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A longer and obviously tougher course could not deny Saipan's Mamiko Oshima-Berger and Japan's Miyachi Fujio from conquering the Marianas Coffee Trail Run again.

The Micronesian Games gold medalist Oshima-Berger and Fujio proved to be up to the challenge when they topped the women's and men's divisions of the extended road and trail race last Saturday.

Oshima-Berger, who won the Coffee Trail early this year when the event was still a 10-kilometer race, timed in at three hours, 39 minutes and 59 seconds in the 30-kilometer division to be the first female finisher and fourth overall.

Fujio, who defeated Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel in the 10-km event of the Coffee Trail in January, held the fastest time in the upgraded race last Saturday, clocking in at 2:50:54. He was the lone 30-km competitor to complete the race under the three-hour mark.

See REPEAT on Page 26

Masters group starts 40A and 45A caging October 23

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Masters Basketball Federation of the Northern Mariana Islands 40A and 45A Men's League is set to kickoff on October 23.

Currently, there are 11 teams registered out the maximum14 squads with a roster limit of 12 players. Among the participating teams is the 40A squad composed of members of the MBFNMI board.

Players who want to join the league, but do not have a team yet are requested to attend a meeting on Oct. 14 to meet squads that still have slots in their roster. The meeting is set for 5:30pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Representative of confirmed teams are also asked to me at the meeting for the distribution of MBFNMI logo patches, which must be attached on the top left shoulder of all uniforms.

Besides the uniform requirement, teams should also pay the $350 entrance fee and submit

See MASTERS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tasi Tours and Grease Lightning players in action during the inaugural masters caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. A 40A and 45A masters league will kick off this month.